

MEMORIAL ISSUE

EIGHT SECTIONS: THE BEST VALUE SATURDAY PAPER



Frank Sinatra The man, the Mob, the women pages 2,3,4, 22,23,25



NEW Anne Robinson's Diary WEEKEND



Inside Prince Charles's Secret Garden

FA CUP Shearer Weekend Adams Section 2

THE TIMES 50P

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SATURDAY MAY 16 1998

http://www.the-times.co.uk

Intimate friend of Presidents despite scandals

Sinatra's millions may split family

FROM GILES WHITTALL IN LOS ANGELES ADMIRERS on every continent mourned Frank Sinatra yesterday but his death in Beverly Hills may prompt a flare-up in the long dispute among his heirs over his fortune, estimated at \$200 million (£125 million), and amassed during half a century as an icon of American culture. Since his death from a heart attack on Thursday night world leaders and fans have paid tribute to Sinatra as the most beloved and imitated singer of his age. He was "the original", said Martin Scorsese, the film director. At 82, Sinatra's legacy includes dozens of films, hundreds of recordings and a sprawling business empire threatened by simmering tensions within his family. Such concerns were put aside, however, as the singer's wife and children made plans for a funeral that will end an era. Raised in the Depression as the only child of Italian immigrants, Mr Sinatra died in Californian luxury knowing his ballads had been adopted as anthems by generations while his style and tenacity had made him, as one writer put it, "the original working class hero". Barbara Sinatra, his wife of 22 years, was at his bedside in the emergency room at Cedars Sinai Medical Center when the "Chairman of the Board", as he became known, was pronounced dead at 10.50pm on Thursday. His final heart

attack followed a long deterioration of his health that began when he collapsed on stage in 1991. Nancy, Tina and Frank Jr, his three children from his first marriage, were at the hospital within minutes, a spokesman said. Early reports indicated that a funeral may be held in Palm Springs as early as Monday. While friends paid tribute to

birth. Pulled from his mother's womb with forceps that left the future sex symbol scarred for life, his doctor thought he was stillborn. It was his Italian grandmother who rushed him to a cold tap and brought the first cries from his lungs. He found fame singing to delirious female crowds in wartime New York and marked himself out in 1946 as

bankrupt friend a blank cheque "to be used when you need it" - Sinatra always feared poverty and from the 1960s onwards invested widely. A Lake Tahoe casino and a Las Vegas venture exposed him to FBI investigation and public inquiries into his alleged links to the Chicago Mafia. Sinatra never admitted doing business with organised crime figures and was not convicted of a crime. His \$200 million fortune is based on property and oil investments as well as royalties. The most famous son of Hoboken, New Jersey, known to millions as "Ol' Blue Eyes", was last seen in public in January, 1997, nine years after changing his will in his wife's favour and six years since his last concert. During his 16-month convalescence, lawyers for his children and fourth wife are thought to have settled some but not all of their arguments over his estate. It remained unclear yesterday if more would erupt after his death. Meanwhile, the heavy-drinking, endlessly carousing hunchback of the so-called "Rat Pack" (a name he hated), who never wore brown after dark and insisted on "fun with everything", left behind his own best epitaph. "You only live once," he liked to say, "and the way I live, once is enough."



OK GABRIEL... HIT IT! No popular singer this century has captured so perfectly the emotions which enslave men and women in love. Beneath the toupée and wobbling jowls the old Frank was still there, not giving a damn.

Man and his music, pages 2-4 Magnus Linklater, page 22 Leading article, page 23



"You only live once." Frank Sinatra liked to say of his wild days. "And the way I live, once is enough"

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India is urged to stop nuclear race

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND CHRISTOPHER THOMAS TONY BLAIR yesterday appealed to the Indian Prime Minister as world leaders prepared measures to drum home their anger over Delhi's decision to stage underground nuclear tests. He telephoned Atal Behari Vajpayee from the Group of Eight summit in Birmingham to urge him to avert a full-scale nuclear arms race in South Asia by signing an international treaty that would prevent fresh tests. Mr Blair urged Mr Vajpayee to show India's commitment to nuclear non-proliferation by entering into immediate discussions to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. But as the summit got under way last night, it appeared unlikely it would follow America in imposing comprehensive economic sanctions against India. Mr Blair was trying to broker a compromise between the actions of the United States and Germany, the hawks on sanctions, and

Clinton warns IRA on further violence

By MARTIN FLETCHER AND PHILIP WEBSTER PRESIDENT CLINTON last night warned the IRA that they would become outcasts if they ever returned to violence. Mr Clinton, launching with Tony Blair a final push for a yes vote in next Friday's referendum on the Northern Ireland Peace Agreement, declared that anyone who returned to violence from whatever side "will have no friends in America". He urged the people of Northern Ireland to seize "the chance of a generation for peace". The two leaders will hold a special meeting on Northern Ireland at the end of the G8 summit in Birmingham and then make a joint televised appeal. Mr Clinton confirmed that he would not be going to Northern Ireland before the referendum, although Mr Blair will make his third visit of the referendum campaign next Wednesday. The most ruthless of the loyalist paramilitary organisations declared an unequivocal ceasefire last night, saying that by doing so it hoped to encourage people to vote no in the referendum. Masked, armed members of the Loyalist Volunteer Force summoned television crews to a secret location to announce the move and condemn the accord as a sell-out. The LVF has tried to destroy the peace process through violence. It has murdered nearly a dozen Roman Catholics since republicans killed its leader, Billy Wright, in the Maze prison in late December. The LVF said it hopes to create the proper climate for people to make up their minds, but failed to explain the logic of the announcement. A new poll, meanwhile, has showed a slump in Unionist support for the accord, with 45 per cent planning to vote no and 35 per cent yes. Libel victory, page 5 Ulster dinosaur, page 20 Leading article, page 23

Star misses final but not Blair

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH DENNIS BERGKAMP, the Footballer of the Year, will not play in this afternoon's FA Cup Final after falling a fitness test on his damaged hamstring. The Arsenal and Holland forward, whose goals inspired the North London club to the Premiership title, will miss his chance to perform on the biggest stage in English football after failing to recover. Last night black market tickets were costing £1,000. But, Tony Blair, an avid fan of Arsenal's opponents Newcastle United, has arranged the timetable of the G8 summit in Birmingham to leave a half-hour window in which he can watch some of the match. The game is expected to be the final whistle for Littlewoods Pools who are to end their sponsorship of the Cup. Sport, pages 33-36 Business, page 27

We're not blowing our own trumpet. We're blowing the whistle. Thousands of people across the country are paying for the privilege of watching the greatest of sports... 0845 3000 233 DIRECTLINE

Hundreds of basking sharks gather off Cornwall

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES AND NICK NUTTALL IT WAS a sight that had even the hoariest fishermen fleeing for port: hundreds of giant basking sharks congregating in shoals off the Cornish coast. While some fled, others took advantage of the unprecedented gathering and ferried sightseers out to watch the enormous 50ft long sharks as they lay on the surface, fins clearly visible. Marine scientists admitted they were baffled as to why the world's second largest fish had chosen to return in such numbers after years of gradual decline. As many as 500 of the harmless sharks were believed to have arrived off the Lizard peninsula by last night. The largest previously recorded sighting was 50 in 1994. Perhaps they were taking advantage of the unusually warm weather. Or perhaps they had returned to coddle a snook at the fishermen who, since March 26 this year, have been banned by law from catching or injuring them. The fishermen were certainly taking no chances. Stella Turk, a spokeswoman for Cornwall Wildlife Trust, said reports of huge numbers of sharks off Coverack on the Lizard began to be reported yesterday morning. Some fishing boats were returning to harbour because there were so many of them, she said. "If the number of sharks is correct, it is phenomenal... even if a smaller one surfaced under a boat it could be dangerous. But I have never heard of fishing boats coming in like this before." Colin Speedie, an expert on basking sharks who works for the Wildlife Trust, said: "This is really quite amazing. We have never known this happen before in Cornwall. It is creating a great deal of interest, and people are delighted to see them." The Wildlife Trust also reported killer whales being spotted yesterday off Land's End. A shark off The Lizard

Being The Times overseas... Austria Sch 60; Belgium B Frs 110; Canada \$3.50; Canada Ps 2.25; Cyprus C\$ 20; Denmark Dkr 18.00; Finland Fmk 36.50; France F 18.00; Greece Dr 900; Netherlands Fl 6.50; Germany DM 4.50; Gibraltar G\$ 6.50; Greece Dr 900; Netherlands Fl 6.50; Italy L 4,500; Luxembourg Lf 100; Macedonia M 150; Malta M 450; Morocco Dir 40.00; Norway Kr 30.00; Portugal Con Esc 350; Spain Ps 215; Sweden Skr 35.00; Switzerland S Frs 5.50; Tunisia Din 4.750; USA \$3.50.



FRANK SINATRA 1915-1998

Musical legacy is all that matters

By CLIVE DAVIS  
Chief Jazz Critic

FORGET, for a moment, about all the Mafia gossip, the Rat Pack antics and the late-night brawls. Frank Sinatra has often been reduced to the status of a B-movie gangster, and now that the constraints of libel are removed the muck-raking will surely only increase.

But even if all the stories are true, that aspect of his life belongs in the footnotes. What matters most is his musical legacy. Nothing will alter that fact — not the film successes, not the friendships with Presidents, not even if some ingenious author finds definitive evidence that the teenage Sinatra masterminded the St Valentine's Day Massacre.

Sinatra often seemed happy to undermine his reputation, especially later as he struggled to accept the changes wrought by a triumphalist youth culture. Think of the disposable sentiments of *Strangers In The Night* or the synthetic collaborations with the likes of Luther Vandross. *My Way* was never a particularly good song, yet no one can have been prepared for the awfulness of the Pavarotti duet issued as part of the 80th birthday celebrations.

To understand his place in popular music you have to travel back to his extraordinary reign at the Capitol label in the 1950s, a period that yielded a series of albums that have been equalled in consistency by only a very few performers — Ella Fitzgerald and the Beatles among them. In *The Way Small Hours*, *Swing Easy*, *Only The Lonely*, *Come Fly With Me* — all have their particular charms. ("Being an 18-carat manic-depressive," he once said, "I have an acute capacity for both sadness and elation.")

But it was with *Songs for Swinging Lovers* (issued in 1956) that the image of Sinatra the insouciant, "ring-a-ding-ding" romantic took definitive shape. From the arranger Nelson Riddle's opening fanfare on *You Make Me Feel So Young* it was clear that this was to be a dizzying journey from one wonderfully relaxed performance to another.

The treatment of *I've Got You Under My Skin* is justly remembered as the most explosive performance of all. Yet it's worth recalling that the song — which most singers would surely be tempted to use as a triumphant curtain-closer — arrives barely two thirds into the playlist: *I Thought About You*, *Makin' Whoopee*, *Anything Goes* and others besides are still to come.

The achievement is all the more striking when you consider that just a few years before the record was made, the bobby-sox idol of the 1940s had hit a calamitous patch. By the time Capitol signed him on bargain-basement terms, he had lost his film and television contracts, and had been dropped by the Columbia label as well as by his agency. His fraught relationship with Ava Gardner had brought him close to suicide.

Only the most single-minded performer could have climbed out of that abyss. Much is made of Sinatra's spectacular rebirth as a film



Sinatra's struggle to reconcile his art with the vulgarity of his complex character fuelled his legend for half a century. The muck-raking will increase but his music will never die

actor in *From Here To Eternity*, yet his comeback as a singer was more startling. You can begin to gauge how far he had travelled if you compare the final track of *Swinging Lovers* — Burton Lane and Ralph Freed's *How About You?* — with a version he recorded with the bandleader Tommy Dorsey 15 years earlier. The earlier version finds Sinatra ably matching the suave legato of Dorsey's trombone, yet in retrospect the overall effect is curiously drab.

By the Fifties his art had taken on a new dimension. The voice is deeper, less polished and more worldly-wise. "I like New York in June/How about you?" The questions take on a looser, conversational rhythm, the phrasing subtly edging the tempo onwards. Riddle's arrangement is one of the unsung gems, the focus shifting between the various brass instruments, the strings rising unobtrusively in the background.

Sinatra also did much to highlight the possibilities of the long-playing record — then still a novel invention — by assembling thoughtfully programmed songs rather than the usual mish-mash of melodies.

*Songs For Swinging Lovers*

and the best of the other albums strike a rare balance between spontaneity and discipline. Sinatra is not normally regarded as a jazz singer — although jazz musicians have always been among his most fervent admirers. But there is no mistaking the influence of vocalists such as Billie Holiday in his subtle sense of time.

Away from the studio, he could not always achieve the same degree of self-control. Concert-goers could never be sure whether they were going to hear Sinatra the poet or plain Frank from Hoboken. *Singing They Can't Take That Away From Me* on a live recording at the Paris Lido in 1962 he breaks off to mutter wisecracks about the onion soup he had eaten prior to coming on-stage. Minutes later he delivers an inexpressibly vulnerable and moving version of Cole Porter's *Night and Day*.

That dichotomy between art and vulgarity is part of the essential chemistry of Sinatra. His struggle to reconcile the two fuelled his legend for half a century. *My Way*, despite its perennial hold over audiences, tells only part of the story.

Leading article, page 23  
Obituary, page 25

**VINTAGE SINATRA**

**Sinatra's top 100 songs**

- 1954: Young at Heart; These Days in the Future
- 1955: You My Love, Loved Me; The Blues, Not As A Stranger
- 1956: Love And Marriage; Love Is The Tender Trap; Songs For Swinging Lovers 1-3
- 1957: All The Way; Chicago
- 1958: Mellow Mood; Success
- 1959: Breeze From The East; Come Fly With Me; I've Got You Under My Skin
- 1960: It's Not Up To You; My Way; Love's Been Good To Me
- 1961: I Will Drink The Wine
- 1962: Believe I'm Gonna Love You
- 1963: Theme From New York, New York
- 1964: I've Got You Under My Skin
- 1964: My Way (re-issue)

**Sinatra's feature films:**

- 1941: Las Vegas Nights
- 1942: Ship Ahoy
- 1943: Revelle with Beverly; Higher and Higher
- 1944: Step Lively
- 1945: Anchors Aweigh; The Point of No Return
- 1946: Till the Clouds Roll By
- 1947: It Happened in Brooklyn
- 1948: The Miracle of the Bell; The Missing Bank
- 1949: Take Me Out to the Ball Game; Oogie Toodle
- 1951: Double Dynamite; Meet Danny Wilson
- 1952: From Here to Eternity
- 1953: Suddenly
- 1954: Young at Heart; Not as a Stranger; The Toodle Toodle Song; and Doin' the New York Hustle
- 1955: Johnny Cochran; High Society
- 1957: The Prize and the Passion; The Joker is Wild; Pal Joey
- 1958: Kings Go Forth; Some Came Running
- 1959: A Hole in the Head; Never So Few
- 1960: Can-Can; Ocean's Eleven
- 1961: The Devil at Four O'Clock
- 1962: Sergeant's Three; The Manchurian Candidate
- 1963: Come Blow Your Horn
- 1964: Four for Texas; Robin and the Seven Hoods
- 1965: None But the Brave; Von Ryan's Express; Marriage on the Rocks
- 1966: Assault on a Queen
- 1967: The Naked Runner; Tony Rome
- 1968: The Detective; Lady in Cement
- 1970: Dirty Dingus McGee
- 1980: The First Deadly Sin
- 1984: Cannonball Run II
- 1988: Who Framed Roger Rabbit (voice only)

One for the road in his home town

"It's Frank's World", they tell you in New York. "The rest of us just live in it". To hear Sinatra in Manhattan, two lengths across the Hudson River from his Hoboken childhood home, offered a partial glimpse of that world. He may have lived for decades in California but, like Lenny Bernstein, who was actually born in Massachusetts, he was a New Yorker of the heart.

In November 1992, he performed at the Radio City Music Hall, a vast art deco pile on Sixth Avenue, and because he had cancelled previous shows through illness, there were a few return tickets knocking about.

It was not quite like hearing him in his pomp, as a friend had done 30 years before in Nelson, Lancashire, of all places, but it wasn't a chance to miss. Sinatra sang 16 songs that night, adorning a show that began with a truly execrable warm-up act by Shirley MacLaine. After her flim-flammy, which amounted to no more than a paddle through the shallow waters of showbiz, Sinatra came on as the audience were filtering back to their seats, and gave no act at all. He simply performed and, though his eyes and ears were not what they were, a transformation took place.

He attributed arrangements to the wrong people, and

The voice of a lifetime defied the odds on a return visit to New York. Michael Henderson cherishes the memory, and a drink from a famous bartender

struggled badly with his autoude, but the voice sounded better than anybody had a right to expect. Nevertheless, when he took a run at *My Boy Bill*, the soliloquy from *Carousel* that makes demands of much younger men, four thousand hearts skipped a beat. Would he get to the end, seven long minutes later?

Yes, he did and when he reached the final, soaring line, "I'll go out and make it, or steal it, or take it... or die".



The older Sinatra: still thrilling without an act

one could scarce forbear to cheer. To make it a really memorable night, there was one "must", John Mercer's bar-room ballad, and a heavy-weight contender for the greatest American song, *One For My Baby*.

After the show, I walked five blocks across town to PJ Clarke's, the saloon on Third Avenue where Mercer had written the song in half-an-hour flat, and fell in conversation with Tommy Joyce, the bartender who is the "Joe" in it ("Mercer told me 'Tom' doesn't work"). It seemed the only way to end the evening. A long-held ambition had been fulfilled.

Bing Crosby said many years ago that Sinatra had "the voice of a lifetime", adding: "Unfortunately, it's my lifetime." What a marvellous tribute. And how true.

Film stars pay their tributes

FILM-MAKERS at the Cannes Film Festival expressed shock at the news of Frank Sinatra's death (Dalya Alberge writes). Martin Scorsese, who is the president of this year's festival jury, said: "Words cannot express my sadness. He was an idol to me as a great Italian-American and a great singer. He was an inspiration to me in films such as *From Here to Eternity* and many others."

Essential reading for landlords and tenants

Thinking of letting your property? Unsure of your rights as a tenant? Then get help with *The Which? Guide to Renting and Letting*. Whether you are renting or letting a house, flat or room, you need to be aware of your legal rights, the financial implications of the agreement and the practicalities of the landlord/tenant relationship. And this concise, accessible book could help you avoid possible pitfalls, as well as potentially costly legal action, too. For landlords there's advice on what sort of tenancy to grant • rents and deposits • grounds for possession during a tenancy and how to obtain a court order. Tenants will discover • who pays the council tax, utility charges and repair bills • whether they can sublet • what to do about harassment or threats of eviction • and much, much more! Complete with sample letting agreements, this book is required reading for anyone planning to rent — or let — a property. *The Which? Guide to Renting and Letting* costs just £10.99 (P&P FREE). To order, send your name and address, the book title and your payment (cheque made payable to Which? Ltd or credit card number with expiry date) to: Which?, PO Box 89, Dept SP255, Harford, SG14 1TB. Orders are normally despatched within 14 days of receipt. Full refund if not satisfied.

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The bitter feud that blighted last years

Women who share

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FRANK SINATRA 1915-1998

# The bitter feud that blighted last years

Singer was reluctant to take sides as wife and children fought over inheritance, writes Giles Whittell

BEHIND a tight cordon of publicists, Frank Sinatra's family is deeply divided by a feud over his estate that saddened and dismayed him in his final years.

Even as his heart and memory began to fail him, Sinatra was forced to take sides in a bitter dispute over his \$200 million (£30 million) fortune, according to reports that the family condemned but did not challenge in detail.

His death could end an uneasy truce between Barbara, his final wife, and three grown children who have accused her of "holding Frank hostage".

Two lavish homes and the future royalties from more than 200 albums and 50 films are at stake, as well as lucrative licensing rights to the Sinatra name.

The first rift emerged in 1988 when Mrs Sinatra, a former Las Vegas showgirl, persuaded her husband to change his will and leave her his two main homes in their entirety, the biographer J. Randall Taraborrelli wrote last year.

Until then, Sinatra's compound near Palm Springs and the Beverly Hills mansion where he spent his last months were reportedly to be split with half their value going to Barbara and half to the three children by his first wife — Nancy, Christina and Frank Jr. The change left the children to support themselves with only the rights to recordings their father made between 1960 and 1988.

"I'm not a princess and I'm not an heiress," Nancy Sinatra, 57, was quoted as saying. She added that her father "didn't set up trust funds for my brother, my sister and me. He figured we'd handle things on our own and instead gave [money] to people who were in need of it."

Barbara Sinatra stands to gain more than her stepchildren as heir to the proceeds of a lucrative contract her husband signed with the Capitol label in 1993 to re-release recordings made before 1960 and after 1988 — including the hugely popular Duets and Duets II albums. She also owns the rights to the Live In Concert album recorded at Sinatra's 80th birthday gala, which has sold 300,000 copies, and will keep the proceeds of the family's Palm

Springs compound, sold two years ago for \$2 million.

Since the 1950s, Frank Jr and his sister Nancy, following the lead of their younger sister, Christina, have promoted the Reprise catalogue of songs their father recorded between 1960 and 1988. Though profitable, it has left the children scrabbling for extra income — Christina by liberally licensing her father's name, including on "singing" plates and Nancy by writing books and appearing in Playboy.

Besides seeking a share of Sinatra's property, the children claim a moral right to some of the revenue from his dozens of pre-1960 records, most of which have recently been reissued as CDs. They threatened to sue their stepmother in 1970 over a commemorative re-release to mark Mr Sinatra's 60th birthday and just two years ago warned their own father through a lawyer that his 'Live in Concert' CD broke an agreement not to re-record songs to which they owned the rights.

Mr Sinatra was said to be disgusted and outraged to receive a letter from his children's lawyer. In his waning years he sided consistently with his wife and her grown son from a previous marriage, Robert Marx, whom he wanted to adopt.

The disinherited family also came to blows over using the Sinatra name to market trinkets, restaurants, pasta sauce and clothing — areas which Christina Sinatra claims to control as "keeper of the Sinatra flame" but where Barbara reportedly has strong views. According to the Wall Street Journal she lost a fierce argument over which likeness of her husband to print on a souvenir tie. Tina chose a young one, but it still failed to sell.

As Sinatra's health became the subject of almost daily bulletins, the family put on a united front.

In February last year Barbara who once said of Nancy, "Just because we're related doesn't mean we have to be friends," appeared with her at a charity book signing.

Nancy later hit back at the Wall Street Journal's report on the family Website, declaring: "There is no battle in our



With Nancy, mother of his children



With Ava Gardner, fiery second wife



With Barbara, the fourth wife, who survives him



With Mia Farrow, the third wife, who was to inspire one of Sinatra's greatest albums, September of My Years

## Women who shared the legend

Joanna Bale on the private life of a man who did more than sing about love

FRANK SINATRA was a legendary womaniser with a star-studded cast of wives and lovers. His charisma, rather than his looks, enabled him to bed almost any woman he desired.

The relationships could be tempestuous, fuelled by his fiery temper and stubbornness — traits he inherited from his mother Dolly, a loud, ambi-

tious Genoan who dominated his life as an only child.

He met his first wife, Nancy, in 1934 at the New Jersey holiday resort of Long Branch. He was 19, she was 17. They announced their engagement almost immediately, but that did not stop Sinatra's philandering. In November, 1938, he was charged with breach of promise after one of his con-

quests, Toni Francke, claimed he had made her pregnant. The case was dismissed and the pregnancy ended in miscarriage.

Sinatra admitted, when questioned by Nancy, that there had been another woman but he insisted there would be no more. They married in 1939. After three children — Nancy, Frank Jr and Christina — they were divorced in 1951 on the grounds of his mental cruelty. Sinatra had begun romancing leading actresses, including Lana Turner, Marilyn Maxwell and Ava Gardner. He left Nancy for Gardner, a strong-minded woman far removed from the homely wife from New Jersey.

It was a stormy relationship from the start. Hours after Sinatra presented her with a six-carat diamond engagement ring, she flung it out of the window in a tantrum. It was never found. Even so, they married a few days later in dramatic style. As the band played *Here Comes The Bride*, she tripped and sprawled at the foot of the stairs.

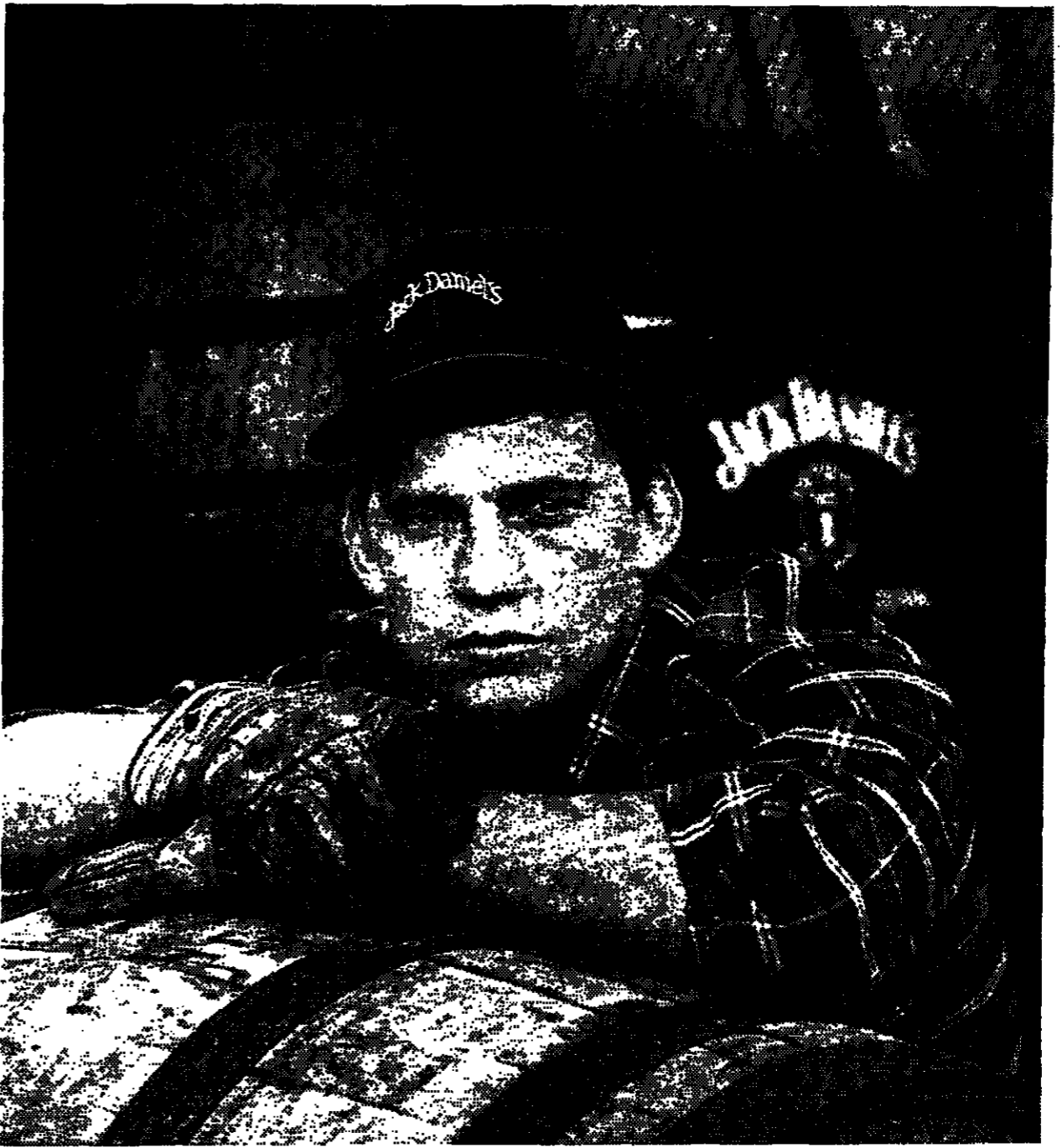
The following year, police were called to their home after a fight which led to a temporary separation. She later aborted his child and by 1953 the marriage was over, although they did not divorce for four years. When she suffered a stroke in 1986, Sinatra paid most of her medical bills. After Gardner, he enjoyed on-

over who owns what from Mr Sinatra's huge estate, which will only grow in value with his death. Sinatra memorabilia is already fetching record prices, such as \$1,000 for a copy of his first 78rpm recording. Steve Allen, a long-standing Sinatra friend, said yesterday: "It's going to be an ongoing Frank Sinatra festival from here on in."

**FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL**

**FRANK SINATRA**  
Dec 12 1915 - May 14 1998

- Nancy Barbato: Married 1939, Divorced 1951
- Ava Gardner: Married 1951, Divorced 1957
- Mia Farrow: Married 1966, Divorced 1968
- Barbara Marx: Married 1976
- Nancy Sinatra: b. Jun 8 1940
- Frank Sinatra Jr: b. Jan 10 1944
- Christina Sinatra: b. Jun 20 1948



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**JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY**

FRANK SINATRA 1915-1998

'Godfather' tale was myth based on Mob links

LEGEND holds that the struggling singer Johnny Fontaine in The Godfather...

Sinatra's family said Mafia ties were normal in showbiz, James Bone reports

with the band-leader Tommy Dorsey in 1942. Dorsey had tried to stop Sinatra...

thugs were just a couple of street toughs hired by the singer's right-hand man.

Puzo told Nancy Sinatra: "I think I just picked it up from one of those gossip columns. I constructed a persona based on his [Sinatra's] legend. I made up the line 'I'll make you an offer you can't refuse'."

The Sinatra family insists that his ties to the Mafia were nothing extraordinary for a popular entertainer in the era following Prohibition...

But Sinatra's name was not tarnished simply because it ended in a vowel. Over the years he consorted with powerful gangsters...

Eager to clear up the mystery, Sinatra's daughter Nancy, who wrote a memoir of her father, Frank Sinatra: An American Legend...



Ronald Reagan cutting in on Sinatra to dance with his wife, Nancy, at his birthday party in 1981. The singer raised \$5m for Reagan's campaign

calling him 'Frank "Lucky" Sinatra, and he spent a small fortune fighting publication of Kitty Kelley's muck-raking 1986 biography His Way.

not apparently understand that his performance at an "Italian-American gala" was in fact a cover for the first full-scale gathering of the American underworld since a meeting in Chicago in 1932.

City" that the mobster sponsored to please his wife. Soon, Sinatra had introduced both the Mob boss and the future President to a go-between named Judith Exner.

Forty years of intrigue on the political fringe

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

FRANK SINATRA'S most poignant memorial is his quietest: a low-rise khaki compound on the hot desert floor a mile or two outside Palm Springs in Rancho Mirage.

Here, in the 1950s, Sinatra built a house fit for a President. He hardly bothered with landscape gardening; it is a place of sand, rock, cacti and sleek bungalows.

Like his mother, Dolly, the young Sinatra campaigned for Franklin Roosevelt before the war. By 1947 he had been branded a Communist by the FBI, and like many of his new friends in Hollywood, was reeling from McCarthyism.

Certainly, his political entanglements over four decades were enough for an entire career.

It is apt that Reagan and Sinatra grew old in Beverly Hills, since they spent much of the 1980s giving each other a long last hurrah.

When Kennedy won, Sinatra agreed that Sammy Davis Jr should stay away from the inaugural gala lest his interracial marriage embarrass the administration.

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Dixons advertisement for 'HANDHELD COMPUTER SCOOP!' featuring ERICSSON MC12 and various PC accessories.

Dixons advertisement for 'GAMES ... latest releases on PlayStation' featuring titles like GRAN TURISMO and RESIDENT EVIL 2.

Whizz-kidz advertisement for a 'Free return flight to New York' and 'Run in the New York Marathon'.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, partially obscured, with text like 'Verdict con', 'Slab' Murp', and 'terrorist cl'.

Dixons footer containing 'PC PLAN', 'INTEREST FREE OPTION', and 'ON-LINE SHOP: www.dixons.co.uk'.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom right: 'كذا من الأصل'

Historic victory for Sunday Times after ex-IRA men gave evidence against their former commander

# Verdict confirms 'Slab' Murphy as terrorist chief

By Audrey Magee  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THOMAS "SLAB" MURPHY was branded a commander of IRA operations in Northern Ireland with the power of life and death at his fingertips yesterday. A Dublin jury's verdict left the pig farmer, whose land straddles the border with Northern Ireland, facing a legal bill of £1 million after he lost his two-week libel action against *The Sunday Times*. Murphy, 47, was not in the High Court in Dublin for the verdict which the jury returned in less than an hour at the end of a hearing where former colleagues in the republican movement gave evidence of his involvement in the secret councils of the IRA. The verdict found that he was a prominent member of the Provisional IRA who "planned murder and the bombing of property". One juror said that they had reached their decision in 20 minutes but decided to remain in the jurors' room for almost an hour out of politeness. The decision marks an historic victory for *The Sunday Times*, which has been fighting Murphy's libel claim for

### THE TRIAL

ten years. Murphy, who proclaimed himself a simple pig farmer, claimed that his reputation was ruined after a report in the paper in 1988 stated that he was a commander of IRA operations in Northern Ireland and had probably sanctioned a bombing in England. A majority of ten to one of the jury of eight women and three men supported the newspaper's assertion in the article "Portrait of a check-in terrorist" that Murphy was an IRA commander who had sanctioned a planned bombing campaign of 12 English seaside resorts shortly after the 1984 bombing of the Grand Hotel in Brighton. Murphy, who sat through the nine-day hearing in court four of the Dublin High Court, was nowhere to be seen as the verdict was announced. His brother Patrick, who is also suing *The Sunday Times* for the same alleged libel, had also vanished. As soon as the verdict was announced, the Murphy entourage of family and friends scattered through the various doors of the courtroom without speaking to lawyers or reporters. Antony

Whitaker, legal manager of Times Newspapers Ltd, said *The Sunday Times* was delighted with the result. He praised the courage and determination of witnesses such as Sean O'Callaghan and Eamon Collins, former IRA members, who in giving evidence against Murphy "placed themselves at great personal risk". He said *The Sunday Times* had been vindicated by its decision to pursue the case. "It shows that if you have a principle you believe in and you can get convincing evidence in the right place at the right time, you can win in the end," Mr Whitaker said.

Rory Godson, Editor of *The Sunday Times* Irish edition, said that Murphy was "involved in the murder of hundreds of his fellow citizens and has created more misery, mayhem and death in Ireland than Oliver Cromwell".

Murphy first challenged the article in court in 1990 and, on losing his case, appealed to the Supreme Court where he was granted a retrial. In the intervening eight years, *The Sunday Times* gathered a great deal more information about Murphy and his IRA activities.



AARON O'NEILL

Murphy was untouchable because police could never secure enough evidence for a conviction

# Astute leader who was betrayed by Judas kiss

### THE COMMANDER

Audrey Magee  
on the IRA  
man who put his reputation on the line by entering the witness box

AS A senior IRA commander Thomas "Slab" Murphy planned terrorist attacks in Northern Ireland. He was caught with IRA men in the boot of his car. He attended the funeral of an IRA terrorist. But Murphy remained untouchable because police never had enough evidence to secure a conviction. He won tens of thousands of pounds in out-of-court settlements from publishers who dared to link him with the IRA.

But then he put his reputation on the line by going to court and into the witness box. There Murphy had to endure the spectacle of two former IRA men detailing his involvement with the secretive inner workings of the republican terrorist movement. One delivered a stunning insult to him by blowing a kiss across the courtroom to Murphy. It was the Judas kiss.

His pale complexion turned an angry red on the benches of the Dublin High Court as he listened to Eamon Collins, a former IRA member, give evidence against him.

Murphy had been sitting impassively through his libel case but became visibly vexed last week as Collins gave details of his meetings with Murphy, the IRA "General" who, on behalf of the IRA Army Council, absolved Collins of the beheading murder of a Catholic man in 1983.

The previously impenetrable Murphy was losing control. His former minions like Collins and Sean O'Callaghan, the self-confessed IRA informer, were coming out against him to testify on behalf of *The Sunday Times*, a paper reviled by republicans as a staunchly unionist, British newspaper. The final insult came when O'Callaghan blew Murphy a kiss across the courtroom.

land in the mid-1980s, which gave him a seat on the inner sanctum of the IRA Army Council. Security sources believe that 12 months ago he became godfather of the IRA when he was appointed Chief of Staff, the top position on the Army Council.

"He is very intelligent, very astute and is the kind of man who was always going to succeed at whatever he did. It is just a pity he was misdirected," one senior garda said. Murphy lived with his mother, who died four years ago, in the family home that sits on the southern side of the border. His brothers Patrick and Frank live near by while his married sister lives in the Ballybinny area. The three brothers used the farm's ideal location to take advantage of the different tax regimes and smuggle livestock, oil and grain back and forth across the border.

The farm's location made it the ideal place for conducting IRA operations. When gardai raided the house in 1989 Murphy hopped out the kitchen window and landed in Northern Ireland, leaving the hapless gardai powerless to arrest. He is credited by security sources with a long list of atrocities, including the August 1979 massacre of 18 British soldiers at Narrow Water Castle, near Warrenpoint. The death of Lord Mountbatten of Burma on the same day is also believed to be Murphy's work.

# Informer 'who exulted in death and destruction'

By Richard Ford  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE judge who sentenced Sean O'Callaghan, who gave evidence against Murphy, for two murders and 40 other terrorist offences, had little doubt about the character of the former IRA gunman before him in the dock. "I have no doubt you are not a man who reluctantly adopted violence as some type of necessary evil. You exulted in causing death and destruction and you say you are proud to have acted as you did." Mr Justice McCollum said as he sentenced O'Callaghan at Belfast Crown Court in 1990 to a total of 539 years in jail. O'Callaghan had been convicted of the murder of two members of the Northern Ireland security forces and 42 other offences including attempted murder, conspiracy to murder, causing explosions, possessing guns and membership of the IRA.

### THE WITNESS

Eva Martin, a part-time soldier in the Ulster Defence Regiment, was his first victim. The 28-year-old died in an IRA rocket attack on Clogher UDR base in Co Tyrone twenty years ago this month. She was killed when, just after 11pm, fifteen home-made mortar bombs and several



O'Callaghan given 539 years in jail

rocket-propelled grenades hit the base. The 40-strong IRA gang followed up with semi-automatic rifle fire. For Richard Martin were the events that followed were heartbreaking. Mr Martin, also a part time UDR soldier, heard the explosion and ran down the stairs, tripping over a body. It was his wife, Eva. "I picked up her head and shoulders in my arms and felt her blood on my hands. I tried to find her pulse. I think it had stopped while I was feeling it," he said. O'Callaghan was to claim 18 years later that he felt immediate remorse over his first killing, which occurred when he was a member of the IRA's Mid Ulster Brigade. "I felt that - I had a personal responsibility that I had to face up to for what had happened to her," he said in 1992. But four years later he wrote that on hearing of her death: "It would be wrong to say that any of us were disappointed at the news."

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# Coleridge's true colours revealed

Simon de Bruxelles finds the poet's dream state may have been influenced by vivid paint in his bedroom

THE world knows about his addiction to opium, but perhaps that was not the only reason Samuel Taylor Coleridge had such vivid dreams. Restoration of the poet's humble cottage in Somerset has uncovered a dazzlingly modern colour scheme in the bedroom where he composed some of his greatest works.

By painstakingly scraping away two centuries of paint and fading wallpaper, restorers discovered the original decor beneath: dramatic orange-yellow limewash on the walls with the door and woodwork painted a pale olive green. Having found the traces of the late 18th-century paintwork, they were able to analyse and recreate it using traditional materials.

The cottage at Nether Stowey, in the shadow of the Quantock Hills, was rented for £7 a year and described as a "miserable hovel" by his wife, Sara. Damp, draughty and mice-infested, the Coleridges moved in on December 31, 1796. The poet, then in his mid-20s, said it would be "an abuse of hospitality" to get rid of the rodents. He spent three



of the happiest and most productive years of his life there.

Exactly 200 years ago this month, Coleridge and his friend William Wordsworth were sitting in the parlour busy putting the finishing touches to *Lyrical Ballads*, the Romantic movement's most influential work of poetry.

Coleridge composed his contribution, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, while living at Stowey, as well as *Frost at Midnight*, the first part of

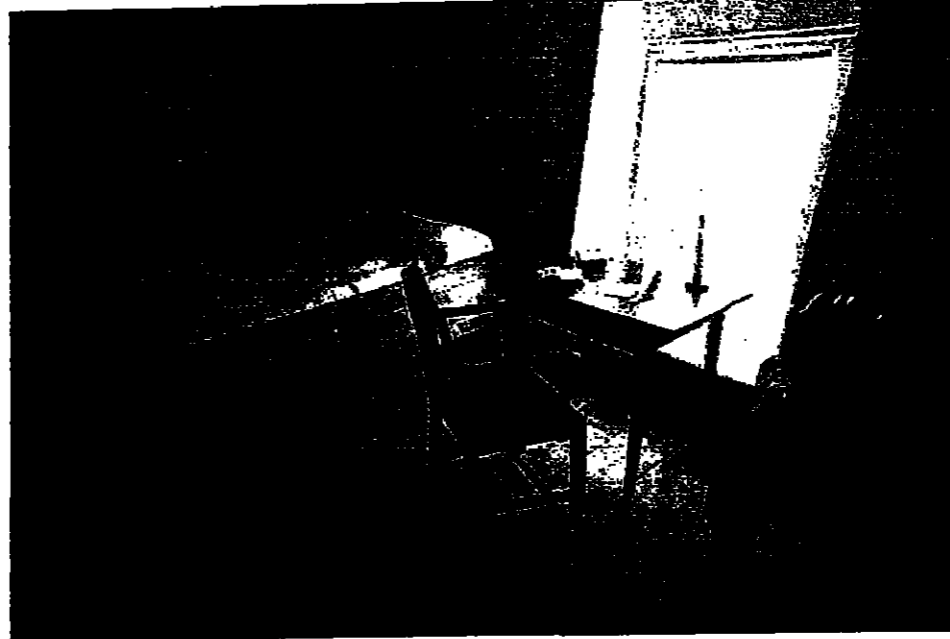
*Christabel*, and his unfinished masterpiece *Kubla Khan*, which was written in an opium-inspired reverie.

Coleridge Cottage was given to the National Trust in 1909, having spent the latter part of the 19th century as the village's most disreputable pub. Until now only the two downstairs rooms have been open to the public and the interior bore little relation to the cottage Coleridge would have known.

In the intervening years it has been home to the cottage's curators, one of whom left a memento beneath the layers of paint.

The present curator Derrick Woolf said: "We found the words 'Liverpool For Champions' in big letters on the wall. We're pretty sure Coleridge didn't write it, so the chief suspect must be one of my predecessors."

Coleridge lived with his wife, young son Hartley, a nanny and Charles Lloyd, a lodger. Tom Mayberry, chairman of the appeal committee which raised £25,000 for the restoration, said: "Nanny didn't stay very long after she



The poet's newly restored bedroom at Coleridge Cottage, Nether Stowey, Somerset

gave Hartley the Itch, probably scabies, and he had to be bathed in brimstone. She was also caught lighting the fire with copies of Coleridge's periodical *The Watchman*."

Coleridge's closest friend was Wordsworth who, with his sister Dorothy, rented a house nearby. Nether Stowey distrusted the poet and his friends. Mr Mayberry said: "Coleridge at least had a West

Country accent, but some locals thought the Wordsworths were probably French because they couldn't understand what they were saying."

Eventually, as gossip about the strangers spread, the government sent its leading spy, James Walsh, to Somerset. After observing them through his spy glass, Walsh concluded they really were taking notes for their poems, not

gathering information for Napoleon.

The restoration will be unveiled by Baron Coleridge, who is descended from the poet's brother, St Mary, Devon, where the poet was born in 1772. Also there will be Tom Poole, a descendant of the wealthy Nether Stowey tanner of the same name who found Coleridge the cottage.



Coleridge: suspected of being a spy for Napoleon

## Freud painting goes abroad after record £3.5m sale

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A MASTERPIECE by Lucian Freud has sold for more than £3.5 million — the highest price ever paid for a work by a contemporary British artist. But the painting, *Large Interior, W11*, will leave Britain after it was bought by an anonymous foreign collector at Sotheby's in New York last night. The sale quadrupled the previous record for a living British artist, which was also held by Freud. A portrait of his friend, John Deakin, fetched £892,500 last year. Another masterpiece, Andy Warhol's silkscreen painting, *Orange Marilyn*, one of his most famous images, sold for £10.6 million — a new record for Warhol — at the same auction.

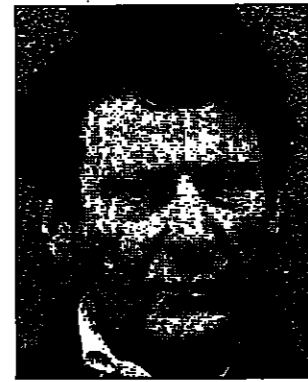
Galleries work hard to keep British works in this country, but the Freud painting proved too expensive. Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate Gallery, said: "The Tate Gallery spends £2 million a year on acquisitions of paintings and sculpture for the nation. The Freud is a marvellous painting, but sadly a single work costing over £3 million is well beyond our means."

The record-breaking sale comes just weeks before an exhibition of 20 recent paint-

ings by Freud starts at the Tate on June 3. Many of the works have been completed in the past year, and most have not previously been exhibited in Britain, having passed into private collections.

Born in Berlin in December 1922, Freud moved to Britain with his family in 1933. He briefly attended the Central School of Art in 1938, and Cedric Morris's East Anglian School of Painting and Drawing from 1939 to 1941.

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Freud: figure was four times previous highest



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# Doctor's killer will not face criminal charges

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

THE MAN named by a High Court judge as the killer of the murdered gynaecologist Joan Francisco will not be prosecuted, it was disclosed last night. In a landmark ruling last March, Tony Diederick, 38, was said by Mr Justice Allitt to have "struck and then strangled" Dr Francisco, 27, in her London flat on Boxing Day 1994.

But the Crown Prosecution Service confirmed last night that he will not stand trial, despite the outcome of the Francisco family's award of £50,000 damages for assault and battery against him. Mr Diederick was never charged by police because the CPS advised there was insufficient evidence to prosecute.

After the civil case, which required a lower standard of proof, police sent a fresh report on the murder investigation. But last night the CPS said: "That report did not contain any new evidence,

which means that our original advice not to prosecute remains unchanged.

The police investigation continues and if any new evidence emerges the CPS will re-review the case."

The announcement was greeted with fury by Dr Francisco's family, who described it as a racially-motivated decision. Her mother, Venus, said: "I cannot find words to express my anger and dissatisfaction at the CPS decision not to prosecute Tony Diederick for taking the life of my beloved, irreplaceable daughter Joan."

"If Joan were white Tony Diederick would have been behind bars from day one."

She said the family would continue to fight for justice and the family's solicitor, Carol Thatcher, said they would consider seeking a judicial review. The decision, she said, revealed a "fundamental defect" in the justice system. "It is worrying that this



Joan Francisco

family, which have taken the route of testing the evidence in criminal proceedings, should now find themselves in the same position as the family of Stephen Lawrence."

The High Court was told that Diederick stalked the doctor for months out of a "violent and perverted obsession" before strangling her with a

vacuum cleaner flex. It was the first case in which someone who had not been charged with a criminal offence was found guilty in a civil case — but "on the balance of probabilities" not to the criminal standard of "beyond reasonable doubt".

Dr Francisco was portrayed by Mr Diederick's defence lawyers as a "social butterfly" who naively consorted with unsavoury men and enjoyed making herself the centre of attention. However, her family insists that, while a vivacious young woman who enjoyed mixing with celebrities, she led a life dedicated to medicine and was particularly conscious of her security.

Mr Diederick, a computer expert and former Westminster Abbey marshal from Paddington, West London, was described as a "walking timebomb" unable to cope with his rejection by Miss Francisco. Police arrested him after the murder but released him without charge.



Tony Diederick struck and strangled victim, said judge

# Funeral firms face inquiry

BY CLARE STEWART AND MARK HENDERSON

THE Office of Fair Trading yesterday launched an inquiry into overcharging and hard-selling in Britain's funeral industry.

The move comes in the wake of a Channel 4 documentary which exposed unscrupulous business practices and a lack of respect for the dead among staff of Britain's second largest undertaker.

John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, said increasing complaints about sharp practice had convinced him to take action. "The £840 million industry continues to be of concern to me," he said.

"Claims have been made that some companies' prices are excessive, and that aggressive selling techniques push consumers away from the cheaper funerals towards the middle price range where there is a higher mark-up," he said. The inquiry will also investigate links between

funeral directors and crematoria, misleading advertisements and unfair contracts.

Last week's *Undercover Britain* programme found pensioners had been overcharged by up to £1,200 and undertakers were boosting profits by limiting the number of cheap funerals.

Staff at a Salisbury funeral home owned by the Service Corporation International (SCI) were filmed using a dead woman's arm as a mock beer pump, throwing litter in coffins and talking abusively about relatives. One member of staff thrust a dead woman's hand into the groin of an undercover reporter.

SCI, which is based in Texas and has 13 per cent of the funeral market, is already the subject of an OFT investigation. It announced its "wholehearted support" for the inquiry and said it had suspended four members of staff since the documentary was broadcast.

# Policeman who raped teenagers jailed for 10 years

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A POLICEMAN who raped two teenagers and indecently assaulted a woman after taking them out on "dates", was yesterday jailed for ten years.

John Blott, 33, a constable with Cleveland Constabulary, had claimed in court that he was irresistible to the opposite sex and had dated hundreds of girls. Mr Justice Hooper, however, said he was a "substantial risk" to women.

He accepted a probation report which described him as "arrogant, egocentric and devoid of remorse". Blott, who had been found guilty at Leeds Crown Court two weeks ago, bit his bottom lip as he was sentenced.

The judge said that Blott had abused his position as a policeman to gain the trust of the women before asking them out. He then used a ruse to take them to his home where they were sexually assaulted and humiliated. Earlier, Anne Rafferty, QC, for the defence, had pointed out Blott's belief that his "sexual prowess gave pleasure to ladies. There must come a moment when that creates its own reality in his head".

She added: "There are literally hundreds of young ladies who also went out with him who did find his behaviour acceptable."

Blott knew that any sen-

tence passed would place him in "double jeopardy" among his fellow inmates, Ms Rafferty said. He was a police officer and a sex offender.

He had originally faced two charges of rape and four of indecently assaulting women in their 20s between 1993 and 1995. The jury found him not guilty of two of the assaults and he was cleared at the judge's direction of a third.

A second indictment involving the alleged rape of a policewoman and charges of indecently assaulting two nurses and another policewoman has been left on the file.

Blott's name will be added permanently to the list of sex offenders and he must report to his local police station on his release.

In court, Blott had claimed that the women were attracted to him and were willing sexual partners. The jury heard that each of his victims believed theirs was an isolated attack, and that because he was a police officer, they would never be believed.

The investigation was launched only last year after one woman confided in a colleague, who in turn told a friend who worked as a special constable. When stories appeared in the local media, more women came forward.

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# Graduates set out on long road to Fame

Russell Jenkins reports on the hopes and dreams of the first batch of students to leave Britain's only university of showbusiness. Photographs by Michael Powell



ONE of the most expensive educational experiments for a generation faces its greatest test next week. The class of '98 is leaving Sir Paul McCartney's £16 million "Fame" school, the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts, to seek their way in showbusiness. The first 166 graduates pass out into a fickle, competitive business after spending three years learning their trade at Britain's only university for the performing arts. Their progress will be watched by a ruthless industry as the test of whether the college is working. LIPA's first generation of musicians, actors, managers and sound technicians are apprehensive about the future but, if any are finding the weight of expectation too burdensome, they are hiding it well. Some are al-

ready on their way to successful careers. Liam Lynch, an American student, has already packaged and sold his own glove puppet show to the pop station MTV. He conceived the idea, produced a demo tape and secured a financial deal in a manner hailed by staff as bearing the LIPA stamp of "total self-motivation". Others are less sure. They talk optimistically of hoping to book their passage on Eric Clapton's next tour, join Joan Armatrading's backing band or are waiting for "calls back" from the touring show of *Les Miserables*. One graduate is filming a documentary with a budget of £100,000, which she hopes to exhibit at Cannes. The students — actors, musicians and singers — are preparing to show booking and casting agents what they can do at planned showcase events in Liverpool and London. Those left behind, mainly sound technology graduates and enterprise managers, are busy nursing bands on the edge of the big time or setting up multimedia companies. The noticeboards, on the college walls and the Internet, are plastered with posters for forthcoming gigs, musicals and touring plays. Elisabeth Nord, 22, a Norwegian graduate who specialised in music and film directing, admits: "We are the guinea pigs and we do feel a responsibility because we are forging a way for other students." She has set up a documentary film production company with a fellow graduate and is filming a documentary about life inside the school. She said: "Many have made sacrifices



Dancers go through their paces at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts, founded by Sir Paul McCartney. The first graduates leave next week

acquire interdisciplinary skills and a business brain. "Some people will leave here to become well known but the chances of the vast bulk becoming famous is remote," he said. "We hope that the vast bulk will become employed or employers themselves. We have come to the end of the first three-year stage, with our first graduates leaving, but what we have not tested yet is: have our programmes delivered what we wanted them to do? That is, really good employment and self-employment potential. We will not know for another two to three years."

LIPA suffered a difficult birth. The institution faced financial difficulties even as Sir Paul urged students to "follow their voice with passion and love" at the official inauguration in 1996. The institution was funded by £3.4 million from the public sector, £4.4 million from the European Regional Development Fund and millions more from its friends, not least Sir Paul. But those difficulties have been left behind. Mr Featherstone-Witty is critical of what he believes is a discrepancy in funding. LIPA students attract about half the funding per head from the Higher Education Funding Council for England compared with the amount awarded to undergraduates in more established centres of academic excellence. He is optimistic that sympathetic noises in Whitehall will be converted into cash. Simon Denton, 32, from Cardiff, who studied management, said LIPA encouraged students to generate their own projects and to work across the disciplines to bring an idea to fruition. He worked as a producer on *Closer Than Ever*, a portrait of middle-aged Americans, which won awards at the Scarborough student drama festival. "You have got to be prepared to do something which isn't your speciality," he said. Cath Skelly, who has worked for LIPA since its inception, said: "They are leaving with a mixture of apprehension, sadness and excitement."

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## 'We won't waste away but we're ready for lean times'

JULIE THOMPSON is the singer who famously charmed the Queen at Buckingham Palace with her open smile and pink dyed hair (Russell Jenkins writes). She fronts Camp Houston, a guitar band that has elicited interest from a record and publishing company.



Julie Thompson, left, got to meet the Queen. Aaron Brown has set up his own multimedia company

"These are exciting times," she said. "It was weird to go to Buckingham Palace. You don't expect to be there ever in your life unless you are getting a knighthood." Aaron Brown, 23, from Northampton, Ben Faulkner, 23, from Chester, and Chris Beech, 23, from Wirral, studied sound technology and enterprise management. They are forming a multimedia company called Wireless Imagination. Ben said: "The idea is to collaborate with people who have different skills to ourselves. Recently we did a contemporary dance show. We won't waste away but in the first couple of months we are prepared for lean times." Sara Spencer, 28, who once ran a music magazine in her native Liverpool, studied management. She said: "We are not apprehensive because we have equipped ourselves

to be self-employed." Simon Denton, 32, from Cardiff, helped to produce an award-winning stage production. He said: "There is a lot of emphasis here on coming up with the idea, learning how to formulate a business plan and going out to get funding." Ian Davie, 25, from Glasgow, studied acting. He has interviews and auditions lined up. "I have started promoting myself. Nobody expects a quick return on their investment. We are in this for the long haul. I am happy so long as I am working, even if it is unpaid. I would go crazy if I did not work." Paul

Adams, 33, from Liverpool, and Gareth Blazey, 28, also from Liverpool, studied sound technology. They have formed their own multimedia company @ Communications and have recorded local bands. "It is the other side of the glass to the recording process," said Gareth. "The nature of the business is a scavenger thing." Katja Pasquini, 32, from Germany, studied management. She worked on Phil Collins's European tour and is negotiating for a job on an Eric Clapton tour. She said: "We have staggered through together for three years."

## Best and worst exposed in Shaw's sinister tale

It was the best of plays, it was the worst of plays. It was written in 1905, both by Shaw the intellectual provocateur, with all his delight in the give-and-take of argument, and by Shaw the armchair revolutionary, with all his cerebral bloodthirstiness. On the first night Peter Hall's production had its nervous moments but also proved thoroughly entertaining — and was the more dangerous for that very reason. If you want to understand why GBS came artlessly to admire Stalin, start with *Major Barbara*. Barbara is an officer in the Sally Army, and though Jemma Redgrave does less than justice to her force of character, she beautifully catches her spiritual candour and sweetness of soul. Enter Peter Bowles, svelte but perhaps not quite formidable enough as her father, the all-powerful arms magnate Andrew Undershaft.

Major Barbara Piccadilly with promises of heaven, pacifies the rebellious, and perpetuates the system that made him rich and keeps them poor. At this point Undershaft is the Machiavellian, Mephistophelian capitalist, but insidiously he evolves into Shaw's version of the Nietzschean superman. The ballor that really matters, he tells his family as he takes them round his factory of death, has a bullet in it. When you vote, you change the names of the Cabinet; but when you shoot, "you pull down governments, inaugurate epochs, abolish old orders and set up new". Suddenly he is an articulate spokesman for the eugenic eccentricities that Shaw called his philosophy of "creative evolution". He not only wins over Barbara, but adopts as heir her fiancé, Adolphus Cusins, who declares Pol-Pot-style that he plans eventually to arm "the

common people" against the artists and intellectuals. With David Yelland bringing combative energy to the role of Cusins, Anna Carteret exuding aristocratic grandeur as Barbara's domineering mother, and the rest of the cast well up to scratch, you may well be inclined to overlook much of this. Hall acknowledges the play's more sinister implications with an ending in which the sky turns red and we hear the crackle of guns and offkey singing of *Tipperary*. Shaw was, after all, writing before the Somme. Stalin's secret police and the Khmer Rouge, none of which were good arguments for political violence or the arms trade. But is that an excuse for a play that at one level is huge fun and at another is — well, what? Naive? Foolish? Put a political retro-scope to your eyes, and you may be tempted to go even further. Myself, I find the piece evil.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## Family fight to save job of Grand

Richard's story

كذا من الأصل



# Family fights to save jewel of Grand Tour

## Richard Owen reports how the 18th-century Rome studio of Canova is under threat as Mammon in church robes hammers at the door

ONE of the highlights of the Grand Tour, the Rome studio of the great sculptor Antonio Canova, is to be reopened after years of dusty neglect and returned to the modern tourist trail. But enthusiasts campaigning for the restoration say they are involved in "a race against time" with the studio's Greek Catholic owners, who plan to turn it into a jeans shop or car showroom.

The 18th-century studio, on the Via del Babuino, is passed every day by visitors heading for the Spanish Steps or the cafes and fountains of the Piazza del Popolo. Even Rome residents barely give the high-windowed building next to the Greek Catholic Church of St Athanasius a second glance. Its great green doors, partly hidden by a flower stall and a water trough, have been shut and barred for 15 years. Inside the rooms, their high ceilings supported by wooden beams, is a jumble of sculpture, some of it left by Canova himself: plaster casts, drawings, chisels and hammers.

"We have to save it," said Ida Benucci, an antiques dealer whose shop is a few doors away, next to the Anglican Church of All Saints. "It is a hidden jewel."

Signora Benucci has formed a Canova Museum Foundation with the support of leading art experts and local businessmen as well as Emanuela and Eugenio Tadolini, adopted descendants of Adamo Tadolini, Canova's gifted pupil and follower. Although only in their early twenties, the Tadolini children are passionate devotees of the Canova-Tadolini legacy and



The Three Graces: the world's most expensive sculpture

spend their spare time trying to put the chaotic studio in order so that it can be shown to the public.

It will open its doors to visitors tomorrow, and if the experiment is successful it could be one of the sights of Rome again by the end of the year.

After Canova's death in 1822, the studio and its contents passed to the Tadolini family — including Adamo's son, Scipione, his grandson, Giulio, and great-grandson, Enrico, who died in 1977 — all of whom were sculptors and painters. Enrico's only daughter, Giuseppa, died two years ago at the age of 75. She had no children, but before her death adopted Eugenio and Emanuela, the son and daughter of close friends, the Cuccu family from Sardinia, "to ensure that

the Tadolini name and the Canova inheritance do not die out."

According to the campaigners, the Greek Catholic Church, which gradually bought adjacent property, is trying to force them out. Priests at the church declined to comment.

"The church has told us it has been offered rent of £8,000 a month by retailers, who see the premises as a goldmine," Signora Benucci said. "We simply cannot afford prices like that."

Emanuela, 24, who studied classics at Rome University and is training to be a lawyer, said the Canova-Tadolini collection was protected by a government decree declaring it to be of historic interest. The decree also says the collection must not be broken up or sold. "But where are we to take it if we are thrown out?"

Eugenio, 21 — who is working as a barman while he awaits military service — said: "[The collection would] lose all its magic if it was dumped in one of Rome's many over-stuffed museums. Here it recreates the atmosphere of Canova's time, as if he had just stepped out of his workshop."

Canova (1757-1822) is best known for his masterpiece *The Three Graces* — the most expensive sculpture in the world — which was bought jointly by the Victoria and Albert Museum in South Kensington and the National Gallery in London in 1994 for £7.5 million, after a bid by the Getty Museum of California had been blocked by the Government. In March this year a hairline crack was found in the marble sculpture



Eugenio Tadolini and Manuela, his sister — devotees of the Canova-Tadolini legacy — and, right, a visitor admiring one of Canova's works



The neglected bust of Canova outside his studio



Ida Benucci, antiques dealer: "We have to save it"



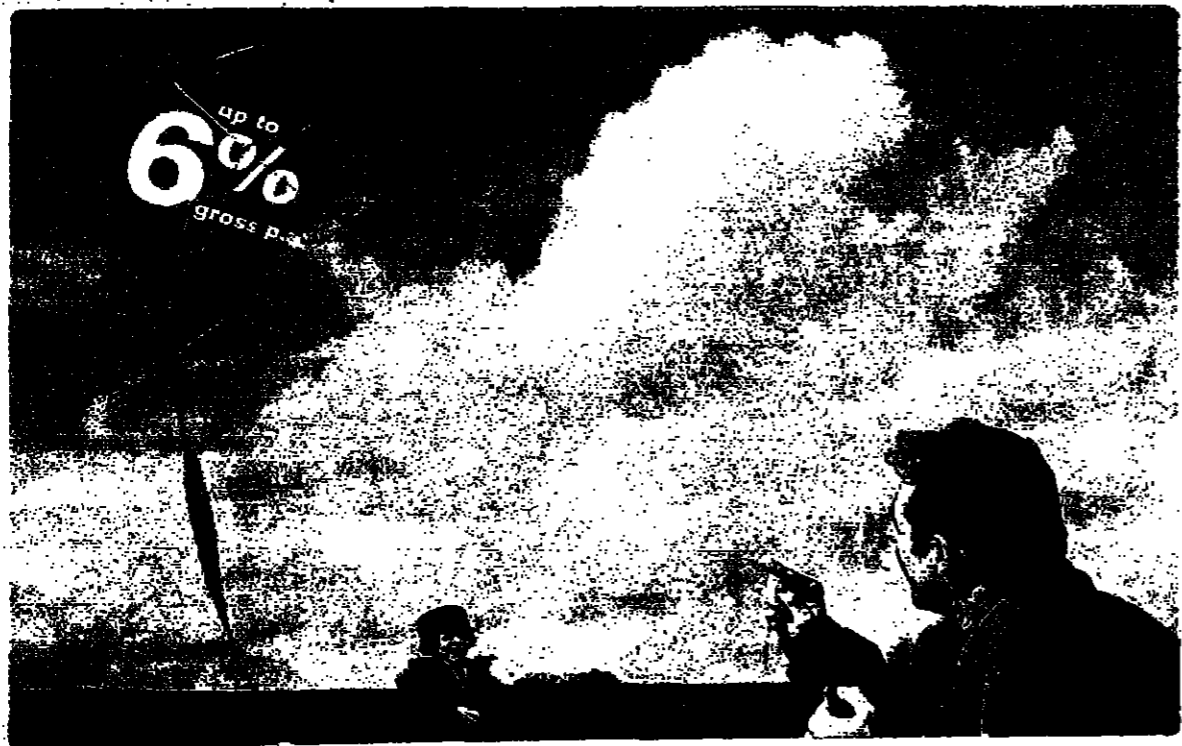
while it was on loan to an exhibition in Spain, creating controversy over whether great works of art should risk damage by going on tour. This month the V&A acquired a painting by Douglas Hamilton (1734-1806) of Canova in his studio with one of his many British patrons, Henry Tresham, later professor of painting at the Royal Academy. Vittorio Maria de Bonis, professor of art history at Rome University, who has

volunteered to guide visitors to the studio, said that 18th-century British and European collectors and art-lovers on the Grand Tour had flocked to see Canova. Most of the surviving work is by generations of Tadolinis, but several pieces are recognisably Canova's: two exquisite statues of dancing girls, the recumbent figure of Endymion with a dog, and a cornerstone intended for the tomb of Ugo Foscolo, the Italian Romantic poet, who died in exile in Turinham Green, West London in 1827.

Born to a family of Venetian stone carvers, Canova leapt to fame in 1781 at the age of 24, when his *Theseus and the Minotaur* was exhibited in Rome. Commissions to carve the mausoleums of Pope Clement XIV in the church of Santi Apostoli and of Pope Clement XIII in St Peter's confirmed his genius, with critics praising his abandonment of elaborate and ornamental church architecture for the cleaner, simpler lines of neo-classicism. In 1815 he went to London to drum up support for the return of Italian art treasures stolen by Napoleon, and while in the capital took the opportunity to pronounce the Elgin Marbles genuine (after which Parliament voted £35,000 to buy them, on the ground that Canova could not be wrong).

Canova is also famed for his monument to the last Stuarts in St Peter's, and his sensual portrayal in marble (considered shocking at the time) of a near-naked Pauline Borghese, Napoleon's sister, in the Villa Borghese.

In his last years he moved to a second studio just off the Via del Corso, which the campaigners are also hoping to restore. At present the three-storey ochre building is closed, and the outside, which bears a plaque and a neglected bust of Canova, has been vandalised, with holes where classical sculptures, previously embedded in the wall, have been ripped out.



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# Friend relives horror of night Lawrence died

THE best friend of the murdered black teenager Stephen Lawrence yesterday gave a dramatic account of the fatal racist attack by a gang of white youths.

Duwayne Brooks's evidence proved too much for Stephen's father Neville Lawrence, who was overcome and left the inquiry room before collapsing. Mr Brooks said his friend was not worldly wise. "He was not street aware of the dangers of being in a racist area at night time."

When the gang approached, as the pair waited for a bus in Eltham, southeast London, on April 22, 1993, Mr Lawrence ignored Mr Brooks's plea to run. "Steve did not understand that the group of white boys was dangerous or that anything would have happened," Mr Brooks said.

He heard one shout "What, what nigger?" and looked back. "Steve had not moved from where he was standing. The group were around him. One in the front reached into his jacket and took an object out. "I saw the youth raise the object above his head and I

Father collapses as witness tells inquiry of attack by white gang crying 'nigger', writes Lin Jenkins

saw him strike a blow towards Steve's head. I heard Steve scream as if in pain. He began running. Steve jumped up and ran across the road. I followed him. Steve said 'Duwayne'. I said 'Just run'."

He sensed his friend was losing ground. "I heard him call again. He said 'Duwayne, look at me, tell me what's wrong.' I looked back and saw blood on his jacket which just seemed to be pumping out and absorbing into his jacket. I said to him 'Run', he said 'I can't. I can't.' Steve collapsed on the floor."

Mr Brooks said he ran to a telephone box to summon an ambulance before going back. "He was still breathing. I saw his blood running down the floor. He could not speak. I saw his blood running away."

He tried to flag down motorists, but one car slowed down

taken by the police. He complained that police repeatedly disbelieved his account, and never considered him to be a victim or a valuable witness in need of protection. He also claimed the police did nothing for Stephen as his life ebbed away at the roadside.

Mr Brooks said that one police officer had lied in claiming that he had said he was identifying culprits from descriptions given by other people, an account which led the Crown Prosecution Service to drop the original prosecutions and which led to the failure of a subsequent private prosecution. He said police had asked what the pair had done to provoke the attack but said they did not believe it to be racist. They also asked him for his trainers to take a footprint while at the police station on the night of the murder.

In the wake of the attack, he was frightened and heard that "fascists" had been to Blackheath Bluecoat Church of England School, where Stephen had been a pupil, looking for him. "I was con-



Neville Lawrence collapsed as he heard evidence

fused and frightened. I was frightened the murderers would get me. I was frightened by the police." Mr Brooks, who was later diagnosed as suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, heard that other witnesses had been granted anonymity and police protection. "I was frightened for my life. I would like to say how unsafe I felt and sometimes still feel."

Eventually, during the Old Bailey trial of three youths in a private prosecution brought by Mr Lawrence's parents, he was given police protection and put up at four separate hotels, one of which was in Eltham where the murder took place. "It felt like they took me to Eltham to break my spirit. I didn't sleep that night because I was frightened to be in my room. The next day, weak and tired, I had to give my evidence in court."

Mr Brooks, who picked out two suspects at identification

parades said he felt guilty that he was not able to give his evidence properly. He added: "I am sad, confused and pissed about this system where racists attack and go free, but innocent victims like Steve and I are treated as criminals."

He also recounted how he attended an anti-racist demonstration. Five months later, when the Crown Prosecution Service had dropped the murder case, police arrested him and charged him. "It felt like the police and prosecutors decided to get me, to ruin my reputation and the chance of any future prosecution of the murderers."

The judge halted those proceedings on the grounds that it was an abusive process of the court. One of the policemen who arrested him was later assigned to protect him while staying at a hotel during the trial.

The inquiry continues.

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## Straw calls inquiry into medals for black police

JACK STRAW ordered an inquiry yesterday into whether two black policemen who were shot during an undercover drugs investigation should have been recommended for gallantry awards.

The two Scotland Yard officers were trying to infiltrate crack-cocaine dealers in Birmingham in October 1994 when they were shot by robbers trying to steal their car. The Metropolitan branch of the Police Federation has criticised the failure of the West Midlands force to recommend them for George Medals.

The officers, who have been invalidated out of the service, claim that the decision is down to racism. They are suing West Midlands police for alleged negligence. Because of the legal action, the force has refused to comment on the gallantry award decision.

Yesterday the Home Secretary said: "The gallantry issue should be treated separately from the claims for damage that these two officers are making. I am keen to resolve the issue, so I have asked HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary to make an independent assessment." His comments came in a letter to the Police Federation branch chairman Mike Bennett, who said: "It's the first bit of common sense involving this issue since October 1994."

The two officers were commended for bravery by the West Midlands Chief Constable and by the judge who sentenced their attackers to jail terms of 12, eight and five years.

## Computer fingers suspects for £96m

A COMPUTERISED fingerprint system capable of making a million checks a second was unveiled by police yesterday. Tests in six forces have identified 1,300 suspects, include two for murders.

The system cost £96 million to develop and will hold 4.5 million known fingerprints and another 3 million unidentified prints found at crime scenes. By 2001, all forces in England and Wales will be linked to the computer known as the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

Eventually it will be linked to computerised criminal records so that police will be able to identify suspects and check backgrounds. Technicians say that it will be the world's most advanced, with a power equivalent to running 500,000 home computers at the same time.

Detectives say that, for the first time, they will be able to use local fingerprint collections kept by other forces and gathered from the scenes of crimes. Police have been calling for the system since the 1980s and eventually formed their own consortium.

Until the last decade, fingerprint records were stored manually and comparisons were made visually. A report from the Audit Commission criticised the police for lost opportunities.

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# 'Sir' Bob recycles his old jokes



FROM TOM RUPPES  
IN WASHINGTON

**BOB HOPE**, the comic legend who receives an honorary knighthood at the British Embassy in Washington tomorrow night, is to present his life's work in jokes, personal papers and broadcast material to the Library of Congress.

The man who was born in Eltham, south London, almost 95 years ago — he celebrates his birthday in two weeks — has been more assiduous than almost any other American entertainer in creating an archive of his career.

And now the Washington Library is planning a Bob Hope Gallery of American Entertainment, a permanent exhibit at its Jefferson Building

to house original reels of his famous *Road to ...* films, his radio and television appearances and recordings of his celebrated performances for American troops.

At the heart of the exhibition, to be launched by Mr Hope on Tuesday, will be an extraordinary collection of his jokes — tens of thousands of them, typed in capital letters, six or eight to a page, and sorted alphabetically by subject. In the top corner of each page is the date on which the jokes were used.

Mr Hope pioneered a British style of humour considered politically incorrect in the United States, such as the 1935 radio excerpt in which he talks of a fictional Broadway play. "The opening shows three Scotchmen standing at a bar buying each other

drinks. The name of the play is *The Miracles*," he said. James Billington, the Librarian of Congress, said the material would provide a unique addition to the archives. "They will be used for years to come by those who wish to study one man's mastery of entertainment: motion pictures, musical theatre, radio and television; by those who will want to experience the humour that helped us through some of the century's most turbulent events and, of course, by those who need a laugh."

It was Bob Hope's commitment to the entertainment of troops in several wars which led earlier this year to his honorary KBE from the Queen, an honour announced by Tony Blair at a White House gala in February. The actor became an American

citizen at the age of four when his family moved to Ohio and, therefore, is not permitted to employ the moniker "Sir". Appointed an honorary CBE in 1976, Mr Hope has never forgotten his English roots and still hangs a portrait of the Queen at his home in California.

It remains unknown whether Mr Hope will test any of his unused material at the black-tie event at the British Embassy tomorrow.

He has rarely missed an opportunity to offer an appropriate jibe at the Washington establishment, writing a letter to the Nixon White House which said that Watergate gave "dirty politics a bad name" and joking about the Treasury: "I always like to go to Washington DC. It gives me a chance to visit my money."

## Mick Jagger to co-produce 'Enigma' film



The rock star is working with Tom Stoppard on a movie of the bestseller, *Dalya* Alberge writes

THE Rolling Stones star Mick Jagger has come to the Cannes Film Festival to announce that he will co-produce a \$20-million (£12.5 million) movie version of Robert Harris's best-selling Second World War novel, *Enigma*.

He is working with the playwright Tom Stoppard, whose dramas include *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, and the director Michael Apted, who made *Extreme Measures*. The choice of *Enigma*, the story of the brilliant mathematician who breaks the Nazis' codes at Bletchley Park, the code-breaking centre, reflects Jagger's passion for spy films.

The movie — a co-production with Jagger's Jagged Films, Intermedia, a British company, and Lorne Michaels's Broadway Video — will be shot in Britain in August. British actors are likely to be cast for the three principal roles.

Jagger is also believed to be working with Martin Scorsese, the director who is this year's festival jury president, on a film about the New York music business for Disney; and to be preparing *Map*



Jonny Depp, right, and Terry Gilliam, star and director of *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, in Cannes

## Festival films en route to British screens

**SOME** talked-about films premiered at Cannes will open in Britain soon (Dalya Alberge writes). They include:

- *Blues Brothers 2000*  
Director: John Landis. Cast: Dan Aykroyd, John Goodman.
- *The Blues Brothers* are back. In the sequel, 18 years on, Elwood Blues is out of prison and on a new mission to reassemble the band.
- *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*  
Director: Terry Gilliam. Cast: Jonny Depp.
- Film based on the drug-addled adventures related in Hunter S. Thompson's savagely funny novel. Although the trade press was yesterday dismissive about it, the involvement of Depp should work wonders for box-office takings.
- *Dark City*  
Director: Alex Proyas. Cast: Rufus Sewell, William Hurt, Kiefer Sutherland.
- John Cooper wakes up in a strange hotel to find that he is wanted for a series of murders but cannot remember if he committed them.
- *The General*  
Director: John Boorman. Cast: Brendan Gleeson, Adrian Dunbar, Jon Voight.
- The story of Dublin's most notorious outlaw, Martin Cahill, who terrorised the community for more than 20 years with hold-ups in banks and supermarkets and is remembered for his viciousness.
- *Godzilla*  
Director: Roland Emmerich. Cast: Matthew Broderick.
- Multibillion movie about the 45m-high prehistoric monster brought back to life by H-bomb tests that has been given a bad name by numerous low-budget and highly
- *Love is the Devil*  
Director: John Maybury. Cast: Derek Jacobi.
- Much-heralded BFI-BBC production exploring Francis Bacon's disturbing relationship with George Dyer.
- *My Name Is Joe*  
Director: Ken Loach. Cast: Peter Mullan, Louise Goodall.
- Story of a man who, after years of alcoholism, finally manages to give up drink and devotes his energies to the worst football team in Glasgow. He eventually meets a social worker, played by Goodall, and they fall in love.
- *Velvet Goldmine*  
Director: Todd Haynes. Cast: Ewan McGregor, Toni Collette, Christian Bale, Eddie Izzard.
- An exploration of imagination, memory and identity set in the "Glam Rock" era.

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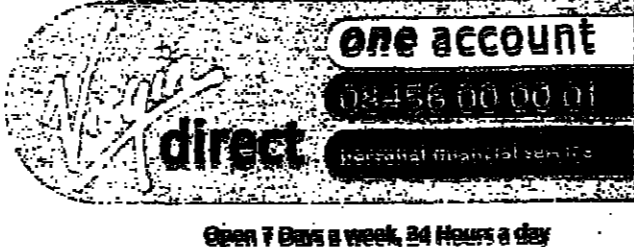
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- (c) Rent the box room to a South American fugitive?
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## This week

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"Sunday opening in Ambridge. Is nothing sacred?"

THE ARCHERS. In addition to the omnibus, there is now an extra episode on Sundays. So now you don't have to wait until Mondays to find out what's going on in Ambridge. Every Sunday evening 7.00 - 7.15.

"I think life will continue just fine. It's just that I'll miss it so."

BEFORE I SAY GOODBYE is Ruth Pridmore's honest, funny and moving account of what it's like to be dying of cancer when you've got everything to live for. Weekday mornings for one week from Monday 18 May 9.45 - 10.00.

"...being of sound mind, I leave all my worldly goods to my hamster, Simon."

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT explores the fascinating world of wills. Daire Brehan talks to people who have had their lives changed, and offers for the better by a single piece of paper. Monday mornings from 13 May 11.02 - 11.30.

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"Don't read Nick Hornby's new book."

THE LATE BOOK continues with Nick Hornby's "About A Boy" the story of Will, a serial seducer with a novel that he lives and Marcus, a kid with more than enough adolescent angst. Wednesday evenings from Monday 18 May 24.30 - 24.45.

"Hear Alan Davies bring something rare, a situation comedy, Humour."

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Conran's bridge too far

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Conran's bridge too far

SIR Terence Conran's plan to set up a Butler's Wharf-style restaurant and shopping complex under a hulking old bridge in Manhattan is in danger after a squabble with the neighbours.

His goal is to create a magnet in New York for the same scenesters who frequent his London establishments at the foot of Tower Bridge.

Plans call for a bistro-café, a high-priced restaurant and a stylish home furnishings store in the new Bridgemarket complex. The project is now threatened by the Englishman's disdain for his down-market New York neighbours.

Originally, the other half of the Bridgemarket complex was to be rented to a trendy health-food concern called Fresh Fields, which would sell organic vegetables and whole-wheat bread to Conran's SoHo-driving clientele.

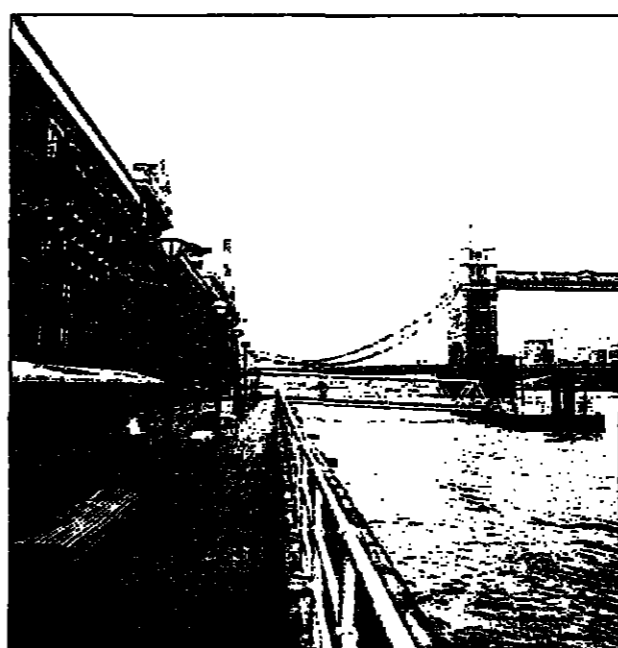
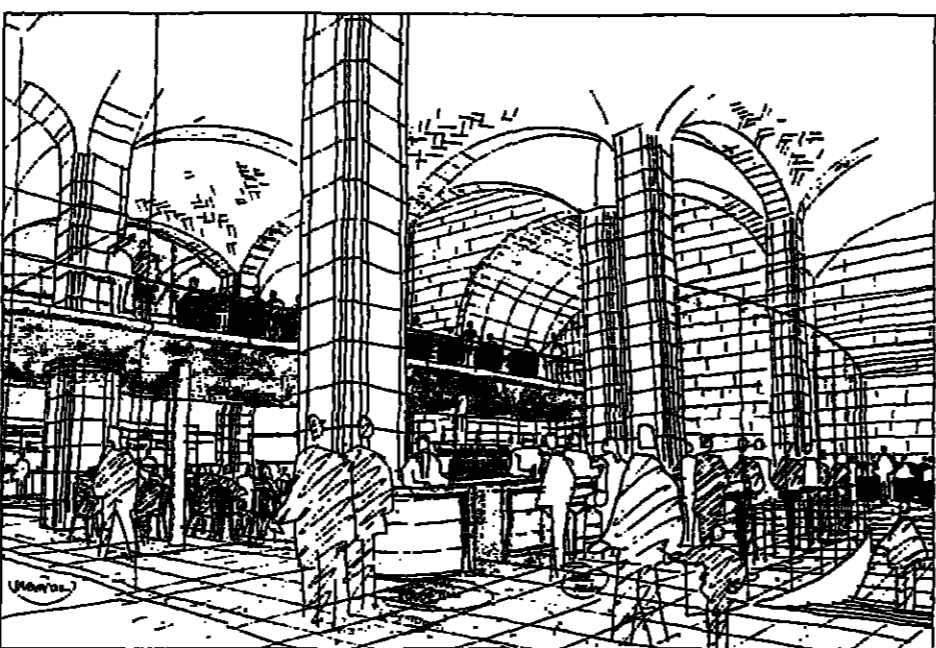
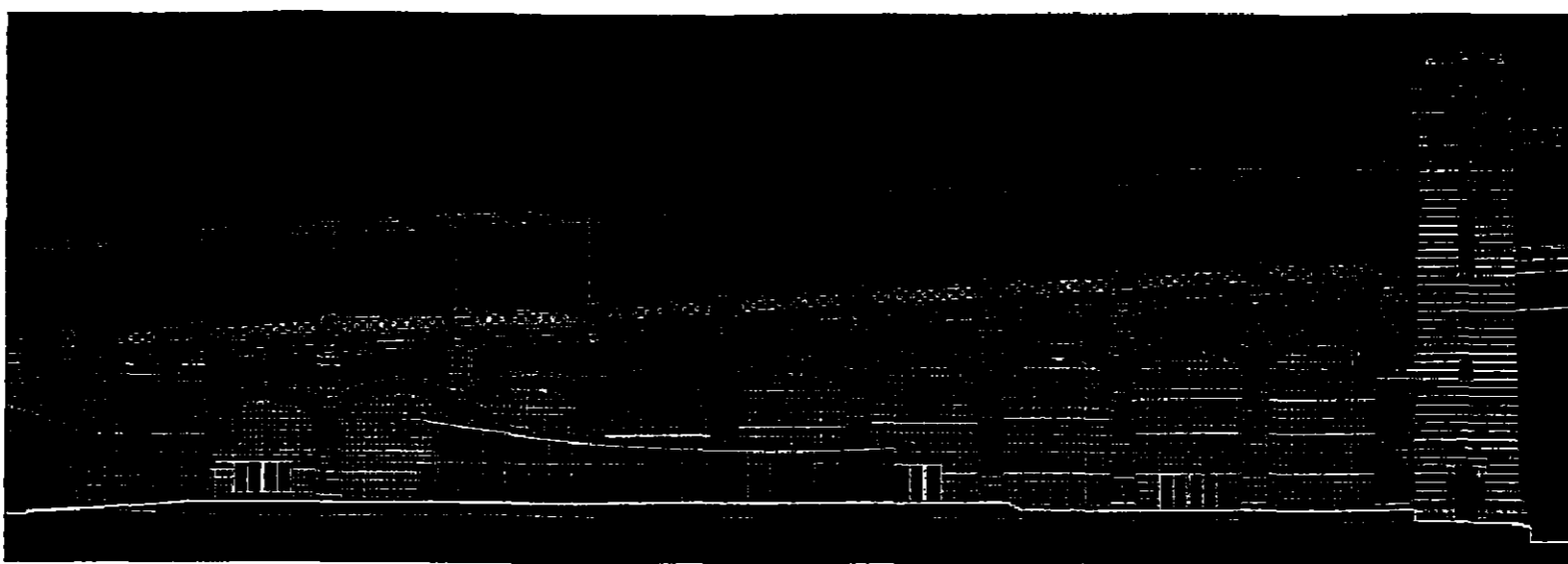
Sir Terence tried to substitute the stylish SoHo eatery, Dean & DeLuca. But the developer, a California company that specialises in shopping malls, leased the remaining space to the Food Emporium, a supermarket chain. For Sir Terence, his beloved site might just as well have been turned into a drug rehabilitation clinic and a halfway house rolled into one.

Conran Holdings has now filed suit to force the developer to cancel its lease with Food Emporium — which plans to

establish a flagship store on the site — and replace it with a classier tenant. Under his lease, Sir Terence is entitled to share the Bridgemarket complex with a "high-quality, upscale" food retailer.

Braving opposition from local community groups and an arduous procedure for approval from the Landmarks Commission, the developers had finally got the Bridgemarket site ready to turn over to tenants in July. Now the whole complex is in doubt.

Sir Terence could sub-let his portion and abandon his American Dream. Or he could buy the whole site. New Yorkers will have to wait a little longer to sample the cuisine of Cool Britannia.



Bridgemarket complex, top, and how the Conran café would have looked. It was meant to be in the style of Butler's Wharf, right, in London

Apollo falls from grace

THE most reliable evening out for visitors to New York is Amateur Night on Wednesday at the legendary Apollo Theatre in Harlem. For decades, the kids from the surrounding black neighbourhood have strutted their stuff in a high-quality talent contest which has produced such greats as Lionel Hampton and Diana Ross.

The subway ride uptown to 125th Street offers tourists a frisson of excitement as they venture into the ghetto, and the acts are an extraordinary sampling of street culture — from paint-pot percussion artists to elaborate break-dancers.

Now the landmark theatre is at the centre of a scandal over missing TV royalties for its syndicated programme, It's Showtime at the Apollo. The mayor has cut off all public funds until an audit is conducted, but the show will go on.

Helen Mirren allayed the fears of British fans by writing to a New York gossip columnist to dispute a report that she and her director-husband, Taylor Hackford, planned to move from London to New Orleans. Well-known in America as the hardboiled detective in Prime Suspect, Mirren said: "Please tell our loved ones and associates that we are not going to laissez le bon temps rouler, cher in New Orleans."



MADONNA, above, has called off her search for a new home in Manhattan after a year of house-hunting. The Material Girl viewed properties ranging from John McEnroe's tower-top triplex to the penthouse of the New Museum of Art in SoHo.

'Lolita' saved by the small screen

JEREMY IRONS declares himself "very pleased" that his starring role in Adrian Lyne's controversial remake of Lolita, with the coquettish Dominique Swain, will now find its way on to American television and probably even get shown at the local cineplex.

Although the ratings board judged the film tame enough for under-17s if accompanied by an adult, the \$58 million (£36.2 million) production never found a US distributor because of the national frenzy over child abuse which followed the 1997 murder of pre-teen beauty queen Jon Benet Ramsey.

Robert Redford's Sundance Channel and its sister network Showtime (Motto: "No Limits") have decided to

bust the taboo, however, by paying an estimated \$4 million to broadcast the movie on cable TV in August. That makes Lyne's Lolita the most expensive film ever to go straight to television.

Irons plays a 45-year-old college professor in Vladimir Nabokov's novel who falls in love with a under-age girl.

"Humbert Humbert is a complex, funny, pathetic and dangerous character," the Oscar-winning actor says. "He was a great challenge to play, a normal man who does monstrous things."



Dominique Swain, who co-stars with Jeremy Irons

The 50th anniversary of New York's Actors Studio, training ground of such greats as James Dean, Anne Bancroft, Robert De Niro, Al Pacino and Marilyn Monroe, has reignited the bitter debate over just who deserves credit for teaching Marlon Brando how to act.

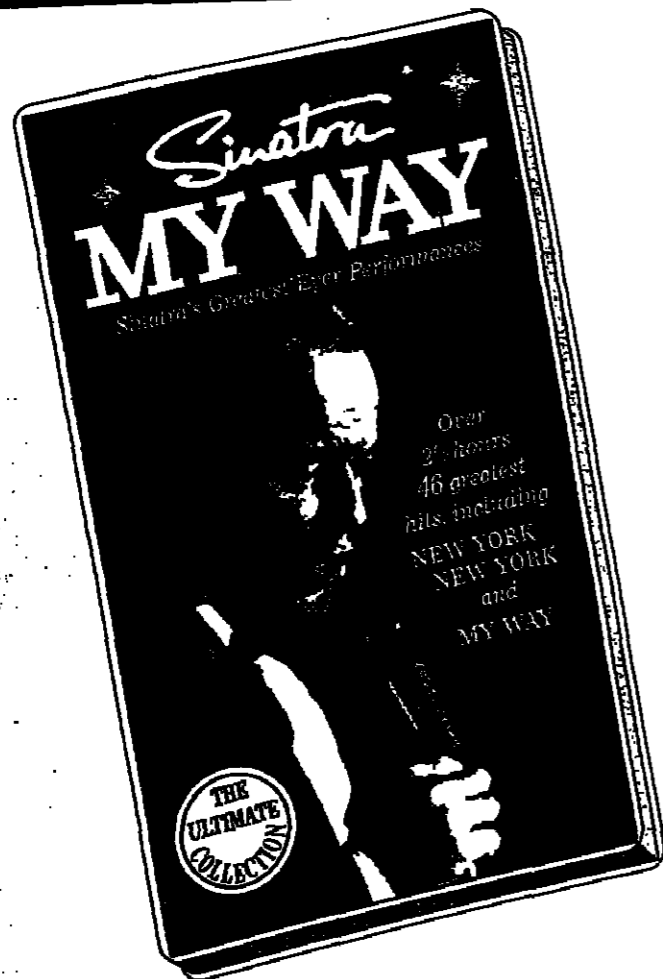
The row, now entering its second generation, pits the followers of Lee Strasberg, proponent of "method" acting, against those of his rival, Stella Adler. When The New York Times suggested that Brando was prepped by Strasberg for his classic role as Stanley Kowalski in A Streetcar Named Desire, Adler's daughter Ellen fired off an angry retort, citing the following section from Brando's autobiography: "After I had some success, Lee Strasberg tried to take credit for teaching me how to act. He never taught me anything. He would have claimed credit for the Sun and the Moon if he could

get away with it. Strasberg never taught me acting. Stella did."

The quest for a good table at a good restaurant turns respectable New Yorkers into lying, scheming cheats. A favoured technique is to book in the name of a celebrity, and then just turn up with your party claiming that you are really called Donald Trump or Leonardo DiCaprio and that it's just an extraordinary coincidence. Incidentally, remember to pay in cash, however, lest the maître d' checks your name on your credit card.

One frequent victim of impostors is Tim Zagat, publisher of the Zagat guide to New York eateries. "I have told restaurants that whenever they get a call on my behalf they have to call my office," he says. "At least once or twice a week I get a call from a restaurant and I have to say it's not me."

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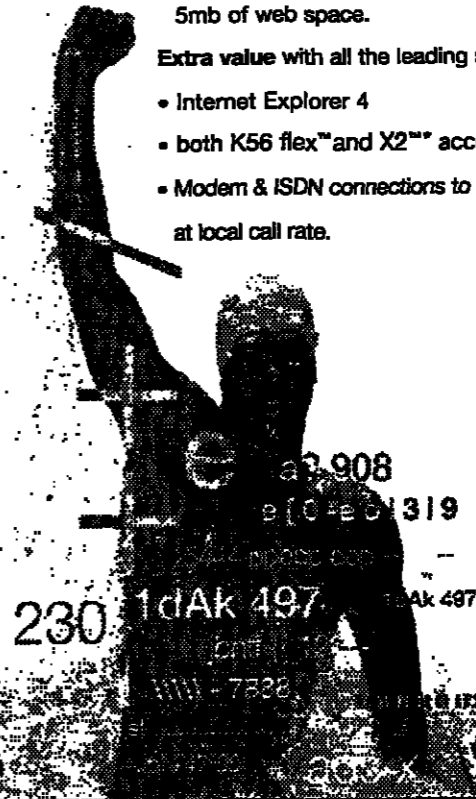
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# Troops take control of Jakarta streets

TROOPS and tanks regained control of Jakarta's main streets yesterday, but looters continued to ransack suburban shopping malls.

On Thursday night more than 120 looters were burnt to death trapped in two shopping malls as other rioters set fire to the buildings. Local residents took away the bodies, charred beyond recognition.

In an attempt to defuse the situation, President Suharto, who returned from Cairo in the early hours yesterday, has ordered cuts in some fuel prices.

The fuel price cut was due to come into force at midnight, but it was far from clear whether the concession would buy time for the President.

In another attempt to cool the situation, Indonesian television stations have been ordered not to show further footage of riots and looting while newspapers have also been told to reconsider their reporting of the crisis. Riots continued yesterday in Solo and Surabaya.

The Cabinet met in emergency session yesterday after the return of the President in the early hours. Mr Suharto made a further appeal for calm, but made no mention of

**Suharto's remedy is fuel price cuts, David Watts writes in Jakarta**

political change or any reference to his comment in Cairo that he was willing to step down from office as long as it was carried out constitutionally. Indeed, as a retired general, he seems to be relishing the challenge.

Dozens of children at the British school had to stay overnight in the school as the area around it became unsafe. The youngsters spent the time having a good party until leaving the building in the morning. "The had a very good time," said an embassy spokesman.

In the embassy itself, stiff upper lips are the order of the day. No special preparations have been made to take in stores.

British Airways arranged a departing night flight to accommodate as many as possible who wanted to

leave from an airport already jammed with foreigners trying to escape. Although the airline was holding 400 bookings, only 130 made it to the flight. Two additional BA flights were put on last night and another today to enable British nationals to leave.

The United States and Canada are to send aircraft to pick up their nationals and Japan is considering doing the same.

European ambassadors held an emergency session to consider how to deal with the crisis. The Chinese Embassy had to rescue 70 Hong Kong people trapped in the looting of Chinese shops and properties.

A British-built Scorpion tank stands guard outside the British Embassy near the fashionable main shopping street of Jalan Thamrin.

For the most part, the streets are deserted. Few firms called their staff into work and even the central bank could not function. As a result there was no trading of the currency or any inter-bank trading. The stock markets opened and even managed a slight rise.

Simon Jenkins, page 22



A soldier stands guard outside a burnt-out department store after riots in Jakarta yesterday

## WORLD SUMMARY

### Suspect admits killings

Rome: Donato Bilancia, 47, who was arrested just a week ago on suspicion of being the "Riviera serial killer" has confessed to 16 murders, police in Genoa said (Richard Owen writes).

The murders include the shooting of six prostitutes in or near resorts along Italy's Ligurian coast, and of two women travelling on trains between Genoa and Ventimiglia. His lawyer said he would plead that he had murdered his victims while the balance of his mind was disturbed.

### Burma court jails Briton

Rangoon: A Briton accused by the Burmese media of being a mercenary for dissident groups was sentenced to five years in jail and fined for entering the country illegally. James Rupert Russell Mawdsley, 24, who also holds an Australian passport, must pay £5,200, but can appeal against the sentence within 90 days. (Reuters)

### Yangtze art loot exported

Beijing: Construction of the Three Gorges dam, the world's largest, on the Yangtze has led to looting of Chinese antiquities for sale abroad, the environmental group International Rivers Network said. A Han-dynasty bronze candelabra sold for £1.5 million in New York. (AP)

## Students fear rioters and looters have damaged campaign for reform

By DAVID WATTS

TRACES of blood still mark the spot on the steps of Trisakti University where one of four students was shot dead.

A number of students huddle nearby, still in a state of shock at the deaths but also at the descent of anti-government protests into rioting and looting. The students feel

they have lost much more than four of their number. The army seems likely to regain the initiative in the long-running battle over the country's future.

"I carried Hery inside," said Fahmi, an engineering student, tears in his eyes. "He was my friend. I can't believe he's gone." Behind, in the plate glass of the entrance to the university, is the

neat hole left by a high-velocity bullet which killed another student. Wedged between an expressway flyover and a building site, Trisakti is a perfect sniper's target. The elite, expensive university is a trendsetter which can always be relied on to be the first with new clothes, music and language fashions. Academically it turns out scientists, engineers and medical students.

Socially and politically it is an ideal target for someone wanting to send a message from the Government or military to the student movement.

"In my opinion it was done by snipers," said another student, Bayu Aji, who runs the university's crisis information department. "They were disguised as ordinary policemen but they were special forces. Each victim was shot dead

with a single bullet and they all entered the head or near the heart. Ordinary policemen can't do that."

The killings have shocked all Indonesians and caused flags to be flown at half-mast in the capital. Bayu realises that the subsequent rioting and looting have opened the way for the Government and the military to accuse the students of causing the anarchy. "This is not

the sort of development we wanted. We have no intention of harming the interests of other Indonesians. We just want reform which will benefit every sector of society," he said. "We want people to act more wisely."

The riots, Bayu believes, were organised by outside elements trying to take advantage of the situation for their own ends.

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## Talks raise hopes for Kosovo peace

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

PRESIDENT Milosevic of Yugoslavia and Ibrahim Rugova, the ethnic Albanian leader, met for the first time yesterday. By agreeing that negotiations between the two sides should continue, they took the first tentative steps towards peace in Kosovo.

After a decade of refusing to see one another, hopes of a rapprochement were not high. But Mr Rugova described an "atmosphere of tolerance and understanding" in the encounter, in the White Palace, the state residence of Tito.

Mr Milosevic preferred to remain his usual brooding but unseen presence, avoiding all photocalls. State news interpreted the decision to carry on with talks as a climbdown by the Albanians, who have boycotted talks with the Serbs previously in the absence of international mediation. At a press conference in the Hyatt Hotel, New Belgrade, Mr Rugova admitted there were

### 2,000 confess to genocide

Kigali: About 2,000 Rwandans have confessed to genocide in an apparent attempt to get reduced sentences for crimes in the 1994 massacres, official radio said. Twenty-two were executed last month for their part in the killings. (AFP)

### Sane enough for execution

San Rafael: A California jury has found Horace Kelly, a triple murderer, sane enough to be executed, a day after his lawyers argued he was a "broken brain" with no idea what was happening to him. (Reuters)

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# India immortalises fathers of the Bomb

## Christopher Thomas on the brains that turned a bullock-cart nation into a nuclear regional power

THE men who made India a nuclear power are as fission is to thermonuclear: different, but aiming for the same result. One is a Cambridge man whose artistic bent lends itself to producing personal drawings for his Christmas cards. The other is rooted in the chaotic, underfunded talent of Indian universities.

There is a third key member of the nucleophile elite: a fine amateur pianist who drifts in and out of retirement, a man who embodies India's surging pride and nationalism. He is a living statement of India's transition from bullock-cart technology to nukes, somebody whose Bach and Beethoven are almost as famous as his contribution to the ultimate statement of power.

The man who started it all is immortalised in the name of the institute that helps to design today's bombs: the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in Bombay. Homi Jehangir Bhabha's entry in India's *Who Was Who* is a litany of achievements, starting at Cambridge in 1930 and continuing until his death in a plane crash in 1966, aged 56.

He was a Parsee, one of that small band of high achievers who will soon cease to exist in India because their ambition takes so many of them abroad. No other Indian physicist has achieved such international acclaim. He built an ultra-modern laboratory beside Bombay harbour for nuclear research; as a friend of Jawaharlal Nehru, then Prime Minister, there was nothing he could not demand. Nehru was obsessed with technology; Bhabha was his doorway to it.

With British financial aid, Bhabha built a low-power

research reactor, and with Canadian technical and financial assistance he constructed a near-duplicate of a Canadian reactor. India even started producing plutonium — about 10kg a year. The scene was thus set for the Hiroshima-type fission explosion of 1974 and, ultimately, for the sophisticated blasts of Monday and Wednesday that tested the most modern nuclear weapons: thermonuclear, fission and low-yield.

Canada funded India's first nuclear power station: 3 per cent of Indian power output now comes from nuclear energy, and there is talk of building more nuclear plants to reduce an overwhelming dependency on coal. The West thus led India to nuclear know-how, encouraging, financing and abetting the very knowledge it now seeks to control. Bhabha opposed allowing safety inspections of nuclear power plants by the International Atomic Energy Authority, insisting that India did not need outsiders to tell it how to play safe — a defiant self-assurance that typifies the new India.

The next big leap in nuclear knowledge was the work of a man whose patriotism is stamped on his forehead, his hatred of perceived Western double-standards a pet theme: Raja Ramanna, 73, has continued to lend his talents to the nuclear programme on and off since retiring in 1987 as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. He spends much time at the piano, enjoying critical acclaim.

R. Chidambaram, current head of the commission, is a home-grown Hindu whose international reputation approaches that of Bhabha. The International Atomic Energy Agency elected him its chairman in 1994 and he was the guiding force behind drafting the Convention on Nuclear Safety, adopted in its entirety by 84 countries that year.

He is a product of Madras University from the 1950s — "100 per cent indigenous", as a fellow physicist observed. The bespectacled and genial Mr Chidambaram does not go in for foreigner-bashing: his mission has been the peaceful application of nuclear energy, a concept forgotten this week.



Nehru: obsessed with technology



H. D. Deve Gowda, in white, the former Prime Minister, visits the country's oldest nuclear reactor near Bombay. To his left is R. Chidambaram, head of atomic energy

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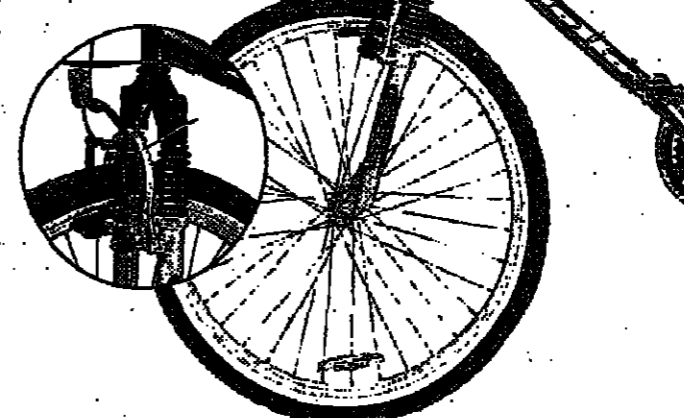


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# Shakespeare's leading ladies address the role of merry wives



Lady Macbeth: ruthless

CAMEO performances of Shakespeare's most strident female characters were staged for the delectation of the G8 wives last night.

Famous speeches from forceful figures such as Lady Macbeth, Cleopatra and Desdemona were performed during a ladies' night out arranged by Cherie Blair. Members of the Royal Shakespeare Company performed a specially devised piece entitled *Behind the Throne* — about the women behind Shakespeare's leading men.

But if Hillary Clinton, Naïna Yeltsin, Kumiko Hashimoto and the other political leading ladies were irked by the choice of the

Cherie Blair stage-manages a show for her G8 guests, Carol Midgley writes

ruthless Lady Macbeth — who famously asked the spirits to "unsex me here and fill me from the crown to the toe, top-full of direst cruelty" — they showed no signs of it.

The women were said to have been particularly keen to sample Shakespearean performances while in Britain. Since they could not go to Stratford-upon-Avon, Stratford came to them.

The performance was staged after the women enjoyed a meal at

the Leftbank Restaurant in Birmingham's Broad Street. Their husbands were left behind to talk politics.

The piece was devised by Greg Doran of the RSC and performed by actors Diana Kent, Penny Layden and Stephen Kennedy. It contained extracts from *Henry V*, *Julius Caesar*, *Macbeth*, *Othello* and *Antony and Cleopatra*. Sonnet 116, which begins "Let me not to the marriage of true minds/Admit impediment" was

also read. Mrs Hashimoto and Flavia Prodi, wife of the Italian President, asked for a special gift from the RSC — framed artists' prints of Shakespearean characters as a memento.

There has been collective sniggering at the G8 summit over the RSC's gift to Mrs Clinton — the costume of Hymen, the goddess of marriage, from *As You Like It*.

An RSC source said: "We chose it because it is made of American silk and is very elaborate with beautiful embroidery. We hope it will be displayed in the White House."

"We hadn't really thought about the name until now and

whether it would be embarrassing, but Mrs Clinton doesn't seem to mind."

Mrs Blair's influence at the G8 summit has also extended to choosing the menu for tonight's meal at the Botanical Gardens in Edgbaston. Diplomatically she has avoided beef and plumped for a healthy, low-cholesterol line-up of roasted Dover sole with baby leeks and forest mushrooms, followed by fillet of pork wrapped in Parma ham with artichokes, peppers and creamed polenta.

Dessert is lemon and mascarpone tart with marinated red fruits and lime sorbet. Vegetarians among the party will be offered vegetable terrine with

goat's cheese and tomato and pepper sauce.

Lamb and shellfish were rejected by Mrs Blair because of the apparently delicate stomach of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor. President Clinton wanted chocolate to be left out because he is supposed to be dieting. Mrs Blair's choices have given rise to a new slogan for the summit — New Labour, New Cuisine.

A separate agenda has been drawn up for the women during their stay, rather unglamorously entitled the "Spouse Programme". Today the wives will travel to Chequers by train while their husbands watch the FA Cup Final.

# Blair bids to speed up Third World debt aid

By ALASDAIR MURRAY AND MICHAEL BINYON

EFFORTS to speed up debt relief for the world's poorest countries are to be increased by the Government at the Group of Eight summit today.

G8 leaders in Birmingham are expected to agree to accept seven new countries, including Rwanda and Sierra Leone, as priorities to receive debt relief. The countries have been chosen because they have recently been engulfed by war.

However, the summit is likely to stop short of endorsing the Government's Mauritius Mandate, which called for three quarters of the world's highly indebted poor countries to be included in the debt relief process by 2000.

The new agreement comes as pressure from international aid organisations and churches mounts in an effort to try to end the international impasse on debt relief.

Around 50 developing countries, mostly in Africa, are recognised as struggling under debt burdens which often dwarf the nations' gross domestic products. Interest payments form the largest single item of budgetary expenditure in many of these nations, meaning money is diverted from health and education.

Jubilee 2000, a debt relief umbrella group which has the support of 70 organisations including aid charities such as Oxfam and Christian Aid, is



organising a day of action in Birmingham today to put the case for speeding up debt relief programmes. Organisers are hoping that up to 50,000 people will link hands to form a giant human chain around the summit building in central Birmingham. Jubilee 2000 will also present a nationwide

petition to the G8 leaders. The Government said that "ironically" it welcomed the protest because it would increase international awareness of the debt relief issue. A spokesman added that Mr Blair would respond to the petition.

Only a few countries, including Uganda and Mozambique, have benefited from debt relief plans. Prospective beneficiaries have to fulfil tough economic tests, which are monitored by the International Monetary Fund and can take up to six years to complete. Aid groups wish to see this process simplified and have suggested that debt relief should be "ringfenced" to ensure the savings are spent on poverty relief programmes such as health and education.

However, some G8 members, especially Germany and Japan, remain sceptical about providing debt relief too quickly, concerned that it will encourage developing coun-

tries to borrow freely. Mr Blair's initiative on debt follows the launch yesterday of the first Russia-European Union summit marking Russia's formal acceptance as a market economy by its Western partners. The summit itself was hardly a taxing affair, lasting all of 45 minutes. It came immediately after Mr Blair's bilateral meeting with President Yeltsin leader, and was really only a continuation of the talks, with Mr Blair wearing his European presidency hat and inviting Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, to join them.

The Russians are upset that the original Group of Seven countries wanted to have a separate meeting of their own to discuss key economic issues. But this was restricted to two hours yesterday afternoon while Mr Yeltsin was relaxing after his meetings, which ranged over Kosovo, the Middle East, Russia's tense relations with its Baltic neighbours, trade and the Indian nuclear tests.

Mr Yeltsin threw Russia's weight behind the common effort to curb nuclear proliferation, and the completion of talks on how to strengthen the Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention — both given added urgency in view of the Indian nuclear tests and the lingering threat from Iraq.

## 'Hands off' the Internet

AMERICA and Japan urged governments to stay out of the Internet development, insisting that this was a task for the private sector (Michael Binyon writes).

After a meeting between President Clinton and Ryutaru Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, they

issued a joint statement urging the private sector to take the lead in developing the Internet. "Both governments should avoid imposing unnecessary regulations or restrictions on electronic commerce." They also said that electronic transmissions should be tariff-free.



Cherie Blair visits the Lillian de Lissa Nursery School in Edgbaston yesterday

# Emperor hopes to head off protests

By PHILIP WEBSTER

EMPEROR Akihito of Japan is expected to voice regrets and express sadness over the sufferings of prisoners of war in the Second World War when he addresses a state banquet at Buckingham Palace on May 26.

His remarks will stop short of a formal apology, but both the Japanese and British governments hope that it will help to prevent his visit from being marred by protests from POW campaigners.

Tony Blair and Ryutaru Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, met yesterday before the Group of Eight summit got under way to discuss the visit, the first by a Japanese Emperor since 1971. On that occasion Emperor Hirohito was greeted by stony silence in the streets of London.

In January, when Mr Blair visited Tokyo, Mr Hashimoto apologised for the sufferings of British prisoners of war and even wrote an article in *The Sun* expressing his country's regrets. However, POW campaign leaders have continued to press for compensation, which the Government says was settled in 1951, and have threatened to use the Emperor's visit as a further focus of complaints.

Mr Blair told Mr Hashimoto yesterday that he was determined that the visit should be a success.

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President pops in for a pint but keeps tabs on DNA

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# President pops in for a pint but keeps tabs on DNA

A quiet drink has led to talk in the saloon bar of cloning in high places, says Damian Whitworth

BILL and June Scott were enjoying a quiet lunch in the sunshine on the terrace of the Malt House pub when the man at the next table asked if they would care to join him. And so for 20 minutes the retired couple drank beer and shared a plate of chips with the President of the United States.

It was just the three of them — oh, and several dozen White House aides and Secret Service men, hundreds of onlookers and the massed ranks of the world's media.

President Clinton's lunch-time pit stop may or may not have been impromptu, but it later raised an alarming prospect: does the White House fear that somebody is trying to clone the President?

Mr Clinton dived into the pub on Birmingham's canal-side in the course of a walk-about in the sunshine. The pub claimed it had had no knowledge of his coming.

"I called down to him to ask if he was coming in for a pint and he gave the thumbs-up," said barman Lee Jones. However, some people certainly knew; the whole presidential cavalcade was waiting at the back gate.

Without a doubt the customers nursing lunchtime pints were astonished by the arrival in their midst of the world's most powerful man, grinning, his forehead glistening a little, his arm pumping into the throng.

Quickest off the mark was Lydia Lowe, who bought him half a pint of Caffreys as soon as he entered the bar. "I said, 'Here have this, Mr President,' and he took it. He said he had been in Birmingham 30 years ago and was pleased to be back. He is a very attractive man, but he didn't flirt. He was just very nice, a very human person."

A local radio reporter, who was apparently shaking with excitement, asked how she had managed to keep her cool. "He might be the most powerful man in the world, but after

half a pint I'm the most powerful woman in the world," said Mrs Lowe.

The Times reported yesterday how Mr Clinton has taken to breakfasting on bagels rather than the fried food he adores. Such good intentions were quickly forgotten on the terrace as he ordered a plate of chips, garlic bread and salad. His drink quickly finished, he called for a full pint of Greenalls best bitter.

"And he said he was going on to another lunch," said Mrs Scott, 66, in slightly awed tones. "He said that the chips were bad for cholesterol but he enjoyed them and he liked the beer. He just wanted to cool off."

The conversation over lunch covered the rules of rugby league, the death of Frank Sinatra, the beauty of Birmingham and the mysteries of cricket. "He said John Major had taught him a little about cricket but he still had a lot to learn. He said that when he retires he is going to do that," said Mr Scott, also 66, who was formerly a manager with a local car manufacturer.

"He said he liked rugby when he was at Oxford but he couldn't get into the rules. He played basketball. He wasn't very good at it but they used to send him on to get in people's way."

With handshakes and a peck on the cheek for Mrs Scott, the President left them to meet the press corps. "I don't normally drink but I'm going to have another shandy," said Mrs Scott, settling herself down.

As the President was whisked away an aide slipped back to his table and removed his beer glass.

"I have no idea what it was about. They didn't say anything. They just got the glass and went," said John Cuthbert, the assistant manager. Last night the saloon bar theories of DNA, genetic fingerprinting and the cloning of the President were already coming thick and fast.



President Clinton enjoys a pint with Bill Scott, a local man he invited to join him at the Malt House pub in Birmingham yesterday

## The day my father died



Your father was paying the taxi and I believe he was shot by the sniper in that bell tower," said Tom. I tried to imagine Dad falling, the chaos, everyone lying on the ground. One shot apparently followed by a short burst of automatic fire...

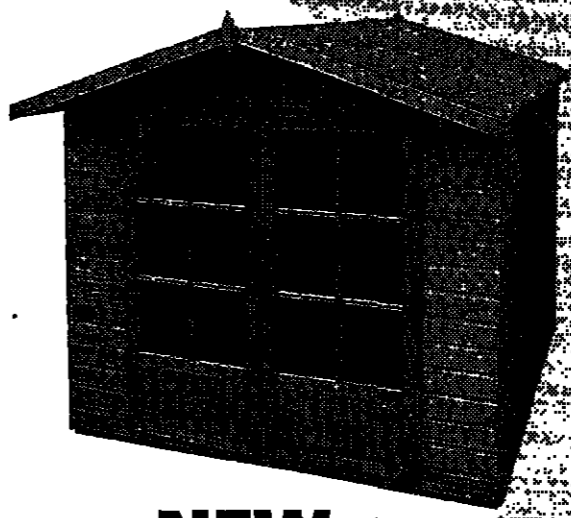
Anna Blundy, daughter of David Blundy — one of the giants of British journalism — makes a poignant trip to El Salvador. The Sunday Times, tomorrow

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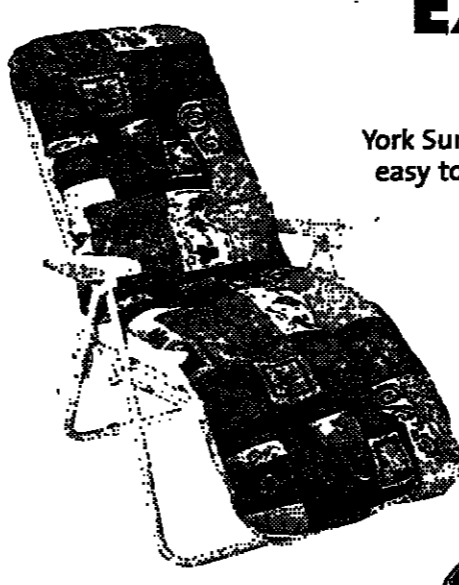


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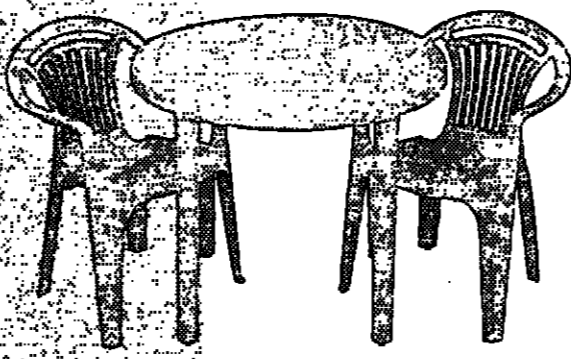


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# Ace pilot and the boy hero

An RAF flyer and his rescuer meet again, writes Stephen Farrell

IN 1941 a young Spitfire pilot, hiding from German troops in waist-high corn, was fed for two days by an 18-year-old French farm boy as the Germans searched all around them.

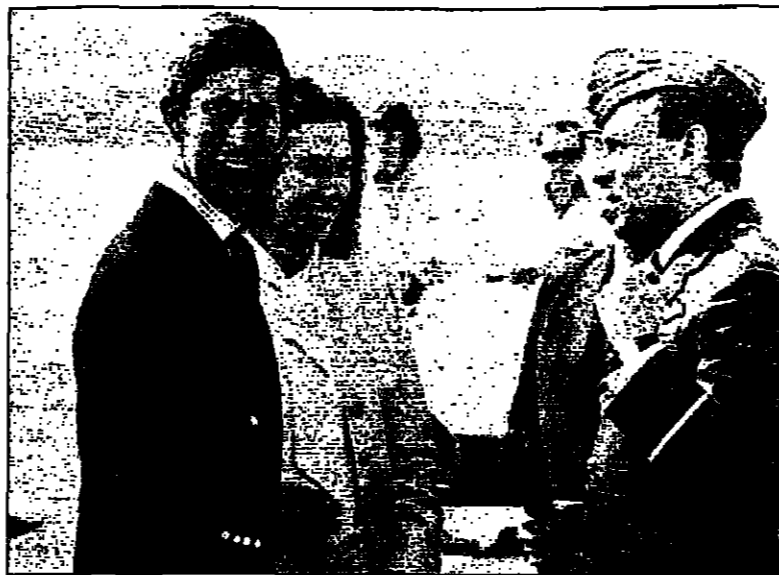
The pilot, Archibald Winskill, went on to earn a knighthood, DFC and bar and promotion to Air Commodore and Captain of the Queen's Flight. The boy, Félix Caron, stayed on his farm near St Folquin and now lives in happy retirement in Bourbourg, 12 miles from St Omer.

Yesterday the two men met for the first time in half a century and visited the field where Sir Archie's aircraft crashed after a "running dog-fight" with Messerschmitt 109s on August 14, 1941.

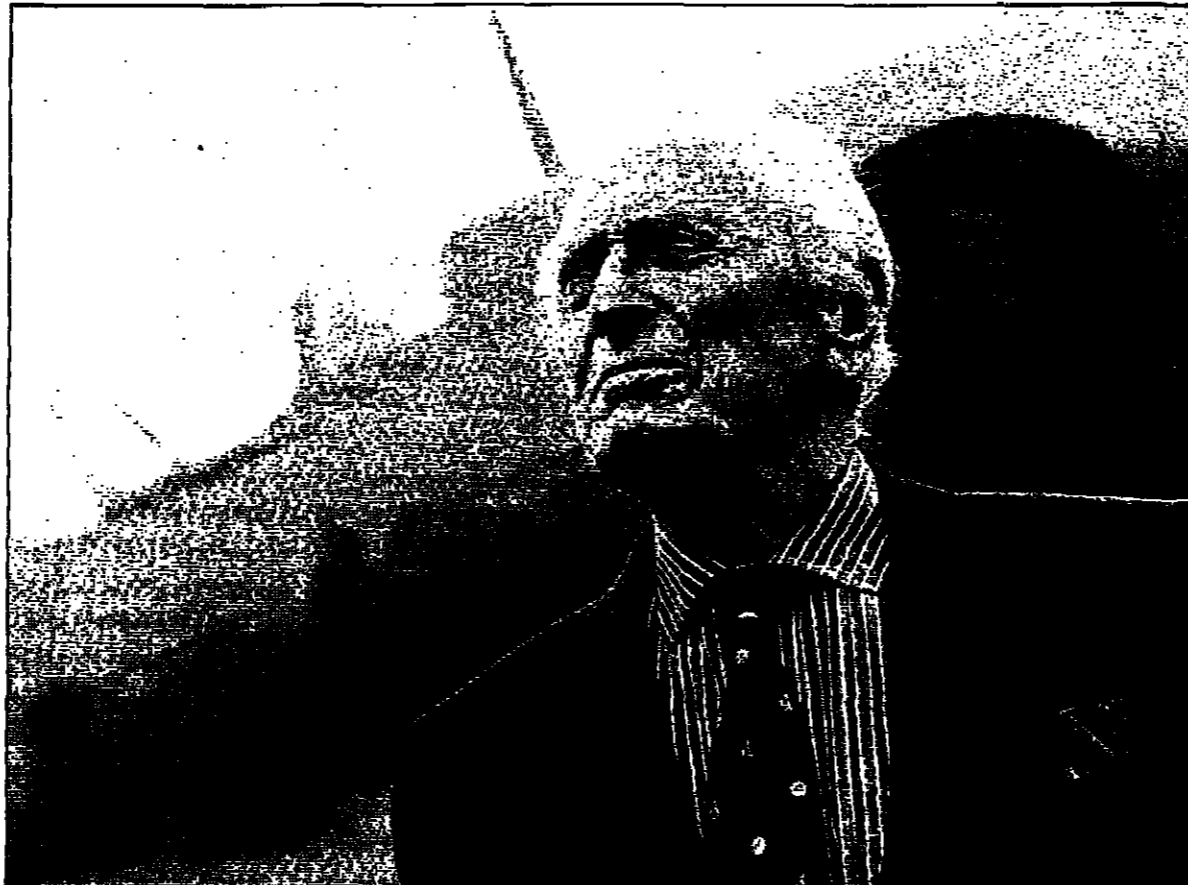
Sir Archie, now 81, recalled how he was flying one of 36 Spitfires from 41 Squadron escorting Blenheim bombers on a raid from Tangmere, Sussex, to the St Omer rail yards when the plane was hit in the ailerons and elevators and spun out of control. "I jumped out quite low and landed without injury in the cornfield, staying within eye-shot of the aircraft. Once the Germans realised there was no one on board, they searched the whole area for a couple of days, but the idiots never thought to look in the corn and spread a wider net," he said.

"The locals obviously saw my parachute land and that first night Félix walked around the field and sought me out. He had a bowl of soup with him and said 'Are you hungry?' He was very brave and visited me twice until all the hubbub died down. Then I went into the village and lived and worked with them until I could move on. I was extraordinarily lucky."

The reunion came about after research by the aviation historian Dilip Sarkar, author of a book on Sir Douglas Bader, who was captured when his own Spitfire crashed near St Omer four days before Sir Archie's. Mr Sarkar enlisted



Clockwise: Sir Archibald and the Queen; with the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal; at RAF Benson with a Spitfire replica this week; and the young pilot in the clothes given him in France



the help of a French doctor to trace M Caron, 75, who still has Sir Archie's flying helmet and was delighted to meet him again. Sir Archie, now living in Henley, Oxfordshire, proved equally willing.

"It is about time we met up again. I hadn't seen him or had contact since just after the war, and as one reaches the twilight of life one likes to take care of such things," he said.

Opting on this visit to travel under, rather than over, the Channel, Sir Archie and Lady Winskill took Le Shuttle to France on Thursday and

stayed overnight in a hotel near St Omer before meeting M Caron at midday yesterday. They reminisced over how villagers helped him to evade capture by dressing him as a French peasant, then contacting underground organisations which smuggled him across France and over the Pyrenees, arriving back in Britain three months later, where he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

No longer allowed to fly over Europe because of his knowledge of escape routes, he was posted to Scotland and then to North Africa with 232 Squad-

ron. There, in January 1943, he was shot down over Tunisia by German ack-ack and landed in the sea only to find himself rescued from capture again, this time by friendly Arabs.

His postwar career saw him flying Meteors, Hunters, Javelins and Canberra jets and brought a glittering series of appointments, as Air Adviser to the Belgian Government, station commander of RAF Edinburgh Turnhouse and RAF Duxford, Air Attache at the British Embassy in Paris and Captain of the Queen's Flight from 1968 to 1982.

It was in that post in July 1971 that he was chosen to accompany the 22-year-old Prince of Wales on the first parachute jump by an heir to the throne, from an Andover over the English Channel.

It was a long and distinguished career. But none of it would have been possible but for the 1941 escape, and the courage of a 15-year-old farmer carrying bowls of soup through a cornfield in occupied France.

"I am very grateful to him, from the bottom of my heart. It was lovely to see him again," said Sir Archie.

# Massacre village where hurt took 54 years to heal

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

IT TOOK just five hours for SS troops to murder 642 civilian men, women and children in Oradour-sur-Glane on June 10, 1944; it has taken 54 years for the people of this village in the heart of France to forgive, if never to forget, the fact that among the Nazi killers were a handful of their fellow countrymen, mostly young conscripts from Alsace, the eastern region of France that was annexed by Germany in 1940.

Next month, for the first time, a small delegation of officials from Alsace will take part in the ceremony marking the anniversary of the massacre at Oradour, near Limoges, in a gesture of reconciliation and an attempt to heal a bitter breach between two regions 250 miles apart.

For more than half a century an Alsatian accent heard in Oradour earned a scowl or worse. "The time has come for both sides to come together and remember their respective traumas," Roland Reis, the Mayor of Strasbourg, who will take part in the commemoration, said this week.

The decision to incorporate Alsatians into the ceremony is another painful reminder for France of the bitter divisions left over from the Second World War, when a mere accident of geography could mean the difference between resistance and collaboration.

When the detachment from the Waffen SS Das Reich division swung into Oradour at 2pm on that June day, bent on exacting retribution for attacks by the local Resistance in the wake of D-Day, they included 14 Frenchmen from Alsace. One was a volunteer, the rest were forcibly enrolled.

All the male villagers who had not fled or hidden were

rounded up, machine-gunned and then burnt. Then 241 women and 209 children were herded into the church, which was ignited by exploding an ammunition box behind the altar. Before they marched off, the German and French soldiers burnt 123 houses and more than 200 barns. Only about 50 villagers survived. After the war, the obliterated village was preserved as a memorial.

In 1953, 21 of the 120-strong SS troop, including the 12 surviving Frenchmen, were put on trial in Bordeaux. The French conscripts were sentenced to life imprisonment, and the man who had volunteered was



The destroyed church in Oradour

condemned to death. The verdict caused uproar in Alsace, where it was argued that most of the condemned men had been forced into the SS.

In the interests of "national reconciliation", the National Assembly swiftly voted an amnesty for the condemned Frenchmen, provoking an equal and opposite burst of fury in Oradour and the Limousin region. The village returned its Légion d'honneur medal.

At the entrance to the preserved husk that was once the village of Oradour, a notice reads: "Time has remained fixed here, to make us remember."

On June 10 a symbolic attempt will be made to erase, not the memory of what happened there on a June afternoon, but the remnants of mutual animosity left behind more than half a century later.

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...writes and ... a cruel' scoop ... cancer in

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# £400,000 for woman after baby blunder

A WOMAN who had unnecessary surgery after doctors wrongly told her her unborn baby was dead yesterday settled her High Court damages action for £400,000.

Suzy Hagstrom, 39, from Garden Grove, California, suffered lasting physical and psychological damage when the operation on her womb was botched, and ultimately had to give up her £46,000-a-year job as the marketing manager for a real estate company.

The operation, designed to remove the dead foetus, left her small bowel and womb seriously damaged, and she needed further intrusive surgery that left a vertical scar from her navel to her groin. An ultrasound scan later found her baby was still alive, and she gave birth to a healthy daughter, Christen Rose, in March 1994.

Mrs Hagstrom continued to suffer from acute abdominal pain after the operations, and was so traumatised by the

**Mark Henderson on the damage suffered when doctors wrongly thought an unborn child was dead**

surgery that she became incapable of concentration. She quit her job in December 1994 after collapsing at her desk, and told the court that she now could do little in a day apart from take Christen and her sister Danielle, 8, to school.

Mrs Hagstrom, who is British born, was visiting her mother in Surrey when she was admitted to the Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford for the treatment in August 1993.

She told the court she had lived in fear throughout her pregnancy that her baby would be born deformed because of the surgery, and was still not certain that daughter had not suffered neurological damage in the womb. The Royal Surrey

County and St Luke's Hospitals NHS Trust admitted negligence, but had disputed the size of Mrs Hagstrom's claim, which was originally for more than £1 million. The trust will also pay the costs of the five-day hearing.

Mrs Hagstrom was not in court to hear the settlement, and her American husband Mark would not comment. Mr Justice Bofield said Mrs Hagstrom was an "enormously impressive witness".

He added: "I accept entirely that her basic condition was brought on by these appalling matters." The trust had argued that Mrs Hagstrom's psychological trauma was not caused by the negligent surgery at the Royal Surrey County Hospi-

tal. Mrs Hagstrom broke down in tears several times during the hearing as she told the court how the distress caused by her experiences had blighted her life.

"Everything was falling to pieces as far as my mind goes," she said. "Before I was feeling really, really sharp. I lost interest in my job. I lost interest in doing anything."

Before the operation, she had insisted on paying half the family's bills from her own income, but lost her cherished independence. She had trouble sleeping, and was perpetually exhausted, the court was told.

The trust may face a further compensation claim from the Hagstrom family if Christen develops problems which can be traced back to trauma before she was born.

Medical negligence compensation claims now cost the NHS more than £125 million every year, with several payouts already made in excess of £1 million.



Suzy Hagstrom was forced to give up her £46,000-a-year job as a marketing manager

## Mother to sue NHS over 'smear tests error'

BY SIMON DE BRUNELLES

A MOTHER who claimed she was twice given the all-clear after smear tests is suing the NHS after having cervical cancer diagnosed.

Julie Carter has undergone two operations, including a hysterectomy, since the disease was finally detected by a private consultant in January. The cancer was diagnosed a year after Mrs Carter, from Devizes, Wiltshire, had a five-yearly test at the Royal United Hospital in Bath.

Mrs Carter says the hospital now admits a review of her test results found "abnormalities" in smear tests in 1996 and 1991. On Thursday, Mrs Carter, 37, met Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, and told him she had paid for her own smear test after being refused another by the NHS.

Mrs Carter, a chiropodist, said: "I could have died. To have a hysterectomy that could have been avoided is heartbreaking." The health trust declined to comment.

## \$2m writes and wrongs of a 'cruel' scoop that raised cancer hopes

THE reporter who wrote a "cancer cure" story for the New York Times and sent the share price of a small biotech company soaring has turned down the chance of a book deal worth \$2 million (£1.3 million).

Gina Kolata, a science reporter on the paper for the past ten years, pulled out after an outcry about the story, which has been criticised by cancer specialists as exaggerating the potential of a technique which treats cancer by cutting off the blood supply to the tumour.

On May 3, the day her story appeared on the front page of the paper, she was rung by John Brockman, an agent famous for securing huge advances for science books. He represents 175 scientists and science writers.

"I can get you \$2 million," he promised. Although initially reluctant, she e-mailed him an outline the same day and he sent it on to publishers. By 9.30 the next morning he had the first offer from a major New York publisher. The next day she withdrew, after discussing the proposal with editors at the paper.

Her story, which quoted Nobel Prize winner James Watson as saying the new technique would cure cancer "in two years", created a

**Reporter's book offer illustrates the dangers of seeking instant cures, writes Nigel Hawkes**

storm. The technique has so far been applied only to mice, and no drug actually exists. "You have to think twice before you put a story above the fold on the front page about a drug and use the word cure when it really doesn't exist in drug form today," David Kessler, a former commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, told Nature.

Dr Allen Lichter, the president of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, told the same journal it was "cruel" to raise hopes about a treatment that may never translate from mice into humans. Dr Watson has denied the quote attributed to him. The paper says it stands by the story, and the quote.

Instant cures are a long way from reality in cancer research, says Professor Craig

Jordan of Northwestern University in Chicago. Nearly 30 years ago, as a young postgraduate at Leeds University, he was one of the first to study a new compound synthesised by ICI chemists in Cheshire.

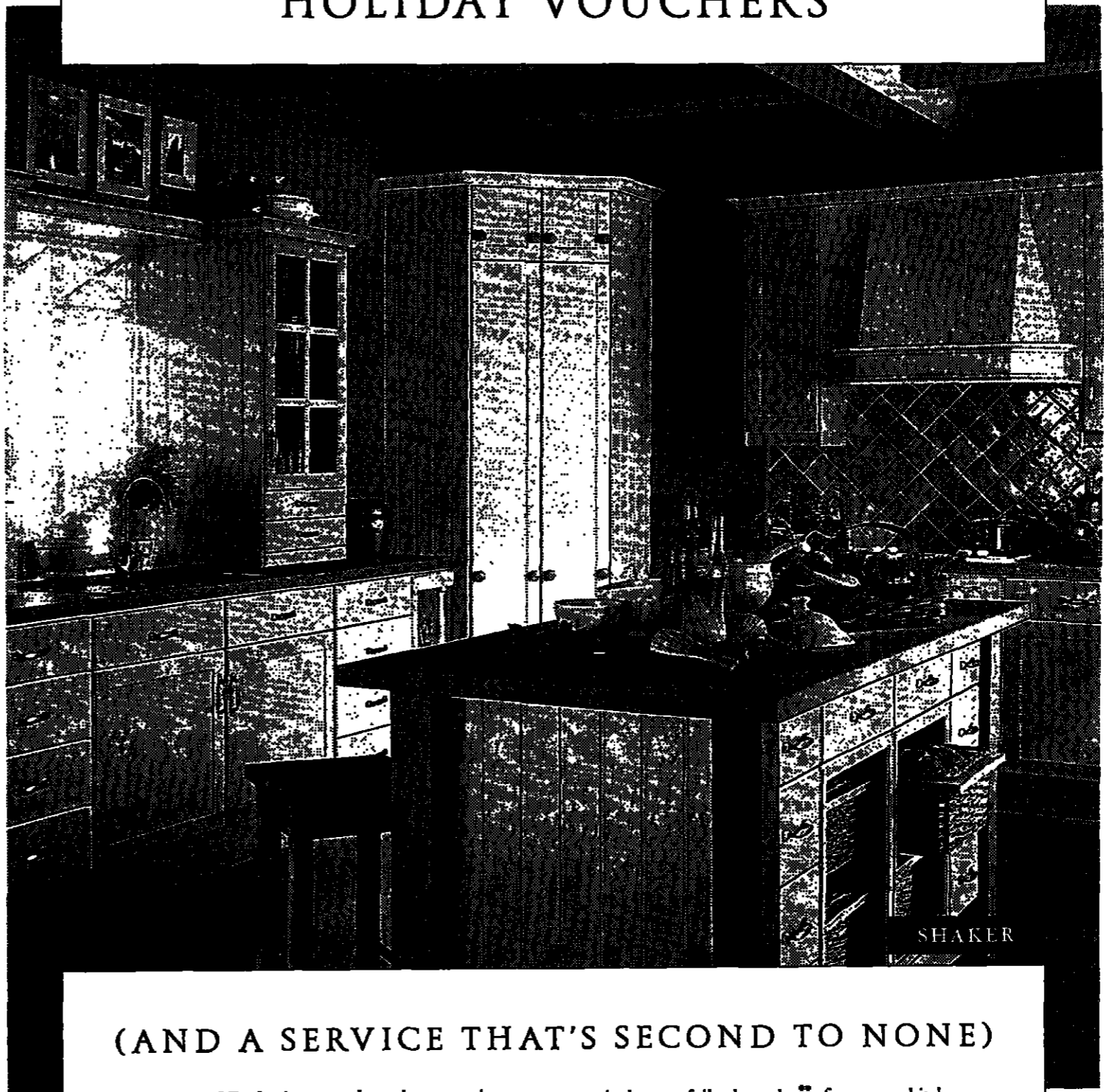
This week that drug, tamoxifen, was saluted as a trial showed that it could save tens of thousands more lives than it already does. These were "the best results I have ever been involved with" said Professor Richard Peto of Oxford University, a man not given to hyperbole.

Tamoxifen was synthesised by Dr Dora Richardson and its potential as an anti-cancer agent first recognised by Dr Arthur Walpole, both of whom worked for ICI Pharmaceuticals (now Zeneca). Dr Mary Cole and colleagues at the Christie Hospital in Manchester were the first to show, in a small trial published in 1971, that tamoxifen was effective in treating breast cancer.

More than 20 years later — so long that the drug is long out of patent — tamoxifen is recognised as one of the greatest successes of British medicine. While its originators have not gone unrecognised nobody is offering them \$2 million advances for their memoirs.

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# Ulster dinosaur locks his teeth on peace accord

"WE'RE called wreckers, but we are the saviours of this country," thunders Ian Paisley before 300 men, women and children packed into a hall in the Co Down town of Newtownards. "Let's send the largest 'no surrender' since the first fellow shouted it over the walls of the Maiden City." His audience roars approval.

**Unionist support for the agreement is being ripped apart by Ian Paisley, writes Martin Fletcher**

Ulster's perennial Dr No, now 72, is preaching the same apocalyptic message with which he rose to prominence more than 30 years ago, but its potency persists. Against all expectations, and with just six days left to the referendum, the "United Unionists" campaign that he spearheads is visibly gaining in strength and beginning seriously to threaten Good Friday's accord.

as "the Arab with the turban" — she sometimes wears a headscarf to cover hair loss caused by cancer treatment. But his greatest scorn is reserved for David Trimble, the UUP leader who negotiated the accord. "Mr Trimble, you can lie about it, you can cheat about it, you can enter into common cause with Ulster's ancient enemies. You can get accolades from the godfather of terrorism, Gerry Adams, but ordinary Unionists know as they read this agreement that it's the greatest betrayal ever foisted by a Unionist leader on the Unionist people," he booms. The audience stands and cheers, and, after a spirited rendering of the National Anthem, leaves with its innate intransigence much fortified.

In Good Friday's euphoric aftermath, Mr Paisley was

widely dismissed as a dinosaur. He was loudly heckled when he gave a midnight press conference at Stormont as the agreement neared completion. But five weeks later it is the agreement's supporters that are reeling.

Unionism has been rent asunder. The Labour Government's greatest achievement is in danger of unravelling. An Irish Times poll yesterday suggested Unionist support for the accord was crumbling, with 45 per cent planning to vote no next Friday, 35 per cent yes and 20 per cent undecided.

Nationalist support virtually guarantees the accord will be approved, but the agreement will be unworkable without a Unionist majority and that referendum-within-a-referendum is now all-important. The less palatable aspects of the accord — the release of terrorist prisoners, Sinn Féin's participation in Northern Ireland's new government — are tailor-made for Mr Paisley's populism, but he has also received generous assistance from his opponents. For the first two weeks the Unionist 'yes' camp sat complacently on its hands believing that the 'no' campaign was, in Mr Trimble's words, "floundering". Mr Trimble is a brave, intelligent politician, but lacks Mr Paisley's common touch



Paisley's campaign is paying dividends: in a recent poll, 45 per cent of Unionists were planning to vote "no"

and failed to lure his canny foe into the more favourable setting of a televised debate.

Most disastrous, the British and Irish Governments let the infamous Balcombe Street gang and other IRA prisoners attend last Sunday's Sinn Féin's conference. Unionists watched aghast as these convicted killers were given heroes' welcomes and were hugged by Mr Adams — and recoiled from an accord that would let such people out for good. Incredibly, the same thing happened on Thursday night when Michael Stone, the most infamous loyalist terror-

ist in the Maze, received a standing ovation at an Ulster Democratic Party rally. It looked "very, very bad", Downing Street admitted.

To be fair, the Unionist 'yes' campaign labours under considerable handicaps. The accord's benefits — devolved government, the principle of consent, potential peace and stability — may heavily outweigh the drawbacks, but are not nearly as emotive. The voices supporting the accord are many and discordant: while Mr Trimble insists the Union will be strengthened, Mr Adams proclaims exactly

the opposite. Moreover, to many Unionists, any accord supported by republicans must, by definition, be bad.

All is not yet lost, Mr Blair's Thursday announcement of four tough new tests of Sinn Féin's commitment to non-violence may reassure the undecideds. But the initiative will be hard to regain. New announcements smack of desperation. The Chancellor's £315 million aid package looked suspiciously like bribery, as did Downing Street's £5 million for victims of violence, £4.5 million for injured policemen.

Government officials hope the naysayers will accept the result like good democrats if there is an overall majority, but that can only be described as wishful thinking. They have the sole intention of wrecking the new assembly and thwarting the creation of the new cross-border bodies.

Were that to happen, the consequences would be unthinkable. There would be bitterness, despair, and the sort of vacuum that in Northern Ireland is commonly filled by violence.

Leading article, page 23

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Victims of faulty hips are urged to register

Patients fitted with faulty replacement hips have been given until the end of July to register if they want to claim compensation. The Government's Medical Devices Agency issued a warning three months ago about the titanium Capital hips made by 3M Health Care Limited. A total of 4,700 patients were fitted with the hips, and the company has already agreed to pay the costs of replacing any which fail. It is still considering its potential liability under the Consumer Protection Act and will decide by July 31 whether to contest claims for compensation.

Paul Llewellyn, solicitor for 3M, said: "If liability is not an issue, the company wishes to deal with claims as quickly and as efficiently as possible." Freeth Cartwright Hunt Dickens, the Nottingham solicitors co-ordinating claims, said High Court proceedings on liability would start if the company did not agree to pay compensation.

### Rapes arrest

A man aged 25 has been arrested in connection with five knife-point rapes in the West London area, including an attack on a mother and her daughter, aged 9, on Boxing Day, 1996. A Scotland Yard spokesman said that the man was being questioned in North London.

### Grand gesture

Child actor Richard Monan, aged ten, who has appeared in *The Bill*, has given police £1,000 he found in the street. The money, from a Post Office robbery, exploded from a security canister as the three-man gang drove past the Monan home in Addington, Surrey.

### Tatchell plea

Peter Tatchell, the gay rights campaigner, intends to summons the Archbishop of Canterbury in his defence against a charge that he indecently interrupted an Easter Sunday address. Tatchell, 46, was remanded on bail by magistrates yesterday after denying the charge.



Peter Tatchell, the gay rights campaigner, intends to summons the Archbishop of Canterbury in his defence against a charge that he indecently interrupted an Easter Sunday address. Tatchell, 46, was remanded on bail by magistrates yesterday after denying the charge.

### Police case settled

A police officer who alleged that the Chief Constable of Warwickshire had made "crude" comments about her breasts dropped a claim for sexual discrimination after reaching a settlement with the force. Peter Joslin denied the allegations by Acting Superintendent Annamaria Robb.

### Surprise catch

A coat left in a carrier bag at the Cancer Research Shop in Fleetwood, Lancashire, had £3,000 in the pockets. Police inquiries through undertakers led to the bereaved family of a retired fisherman, and they successfully claimed the cash after producing a picture of him wearing the coat.

### Lightning death

A doctor walking in the Scottish hills may have fallen to his death after being struck by lightning. Dr Nicholas Kehoe, 40, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon at the Northern General Hospital in Sheffield, was found in the Fannich Hills, near Ullapool, yesterday lunchtime.

### Metro

The details for Southend Odeon (Metro, page 32, London and SE edition) are wrong. For correct information please call 01702 393544.

## Rugby blue freed over attack

By RICHARD FORD HOME CORRESPONDENT

A CAMBRIDGE rugby blue who attacked a porter as he tried to break up a fight at a victory party was given a conditional discharge by a judge yesterday.

Andrew Craig, 25 and 6ft 7in tall, admitted assaulting Alan Quartermaine, 47, who is 5ft 6in. He was ordered to pay Mr Quartermaine £2,000.

Craig, from Waikato, New Zealand, had been drunk at the party in Homerton College, Cambridge, held three days after Cambridge beat Oxford University in the annual match at Twickenham.

The court was told that his conviction could jeopardise his hopes of a career in New Zealand's diplomatic service.

Mark Aston, for the prosecution, had told the court that Craig became involved in a disturbance with a man and a woman which Mr Quartermaine tried to break up. Craig elbowed him in the face, breaking his nose and causing injuries to his eyes and teeth. Mr Quartermaine also lost £800 in wages.

Gareth Hawkesworth, in mitigation, said that Craig struck out after being grasped, and had not intended to cause such severe injury. He had written to Homerton College to apologise. Craig blamed his behaviour on "advanced" intoxication.

Craig, who is in the final year of a post-graduate course in social and political sciences, is a double Cambridge Rugby Blue.

Judge John Sheerin said Craig was guilty of an "outrageous" attack but he accepted that he was shamed by his behaviour, which he was not likely to repeat.

"In consequence, I take the view that it would be proper to impose a conditional discharge."

## Bomb marine escapes with fine

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A ROYAL MARINE who made an arsenal of bombs walked free from court after a judge was told that a custodial sentence would end his military career.

The judge opted to fine Lee Rigg, 23, after his Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Rundell, said he was an extremely competent and able Royal Marine and a valuable member of the Corps. Lt Col Rundell confirmed that any prison sentence, even suspended, would almost certainly force his dismissal.

Fining him £1,000, Mr Justice Ian Kennedy told Rigg: "We all owe a debt to the Armed Forces and you are entitled to trade on that credit — but only once."

Rigg, based at HMS Excellent, Portsmouth, admitted five charges of making

explosive devices with the gunpowder from thunderflashes, a blank round and shrapnel from panel pins and broken glass. Peter Clements, for the prosecution, told Winchester Crown Court that the devices had been found by police in a drawer and a wardrobe at his Portsmouth home after he had been arrested for a public order offence.

They found four explosive devices plus a box with broken glass and panel pins stuck to the outside. The court heard that it would have spread shrapnel had a device been placed inside it. Mr Clements said a bomb disposal officer had found another device which could have expelled panel pins as shrapnel with such velocity that it would cause serious injury up to 20 metres or death up to two metres.

Rigg told police he had made the

devices as instructional aids for Sea Cadets two years previously when he had accompanied his old unit from Stockport on exercises in Wales as an unofficial instructor. Mr Clements said the explanation was implausible and that Rigg had had no official instructor role in the Cadets, although the Crown was unable to suggest a use for the devices.

Garth Rees, for the defence, said that Rigg had simply been showing off, although he accepted that the devices were dangerous and he was irresponsible. Sentencing him, the judge added: "You have disgraced everybody in sight. What you did was criminal but it was essentially foolishness."

Rigg who was also bound over to be of good behaviour for two years, was ordered to pay £500 costs.



## Husband in 'mercy killing' goes free

By A CORRESPONDENT

A DEVOTED husband wept as he stabbed his wife because he could not stand seeing her suffer from Alzheimer's disease, a court heard yesterday. Desmond Douglas was at the end of his tether and, after stabbing his 70-year-old wife Pat, through the heart tried to kill himself. Belfast Crown Court was told.

Eugene Grant, QC, for the defence, said 67-year-old Douglas had "lost complete control" when he carried out "what in a sense was a mercy killing". For six years Douglas single-handedly looked after his wife, keeping secret her deterioration from Alzheimer's fearing she would be put in care.

John Creaney, QC, prosecuting, said when his wife became sick in 1991, Douglas "devoted himself" to looking after her, taking early retirement from the Post Office. "He seemed on the face of it to have managed reasonably well," he added, but Douglas was finding it hard caring for his wife, who had also gone blind.

Douglas was accused of murdering his wife at their home in Cuba Walk, east Belfast, in January last year, but the charge was dropped when he pleaded guilty to manslaughter due to diminished responsibility. Placing Douglas on probation for three years, Lord Justice MacDermott said it was an "extremely tragic case".

## Carey urged to bar US bishop from Lambeth

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

LEADING Church of England evangelicals are calling on the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, to ban an American bishop from the Lambeth conference this summer.

Their plea comes after the bishop, the Right Rev John Spong of Newark, called in his diocesan newsletter on the worldwide Anglican church to abandon most, if not all, of traditional Christian doctrine.

In a thesis posted this week on the American episcopal church's Internet site, Bishop Spong rejects "theism", or belief in God. He says the "Christology of the ages", or Christianity, is bankrupt.

He dismisses the virgin birth and the New Testament miracles, and describes the concept of Christ's death on the cross as sacrifice for the

sins of the world as "barbarian". He also says it is absolutely certain that the physical resurrection of Christ's body was impossible.

Bishop Spong, who has repeatedly been at the centre of church controversy because of his liberal views on sexuality, is certain to widen further the divisions threatening to split the Anglican church at the conference.

The ten-yearly meeting of archbishops and bishops from the Anglican church worldwide, is already facing divisions over homosexuality and women bishops. It is likely to be seen as the toughest test yet of the Dr Carey's leadership.

Members of Reform, the conservative evangelical movement within the Church of England, have already called on Dr Carey to withdraw invitations to Bishop Spong and other liberal bishops to the Lambeth Conference after they signed a statement on the issue of homosexuality which promoted a liberal viewpoint.

But last night Rev David Holloway, the vicar of Jesmond in Newcastle, a leading member of Reform, said: "Theologically, what Bishop Spong has said now has huge ramifications. I know masses of people who do not believe anything at all, but they do not want to be bishops in the Anglican church."



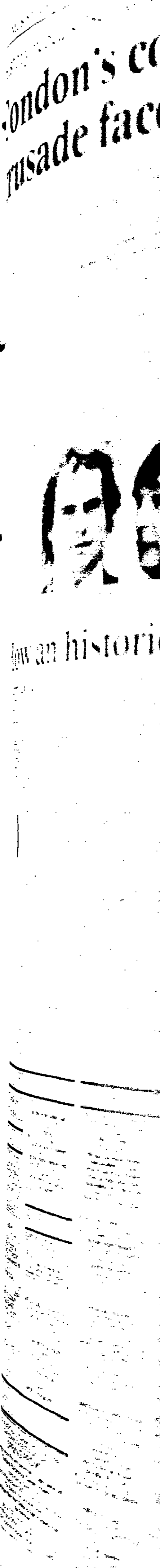
Bishop Spong rejects virgin birth and miracles

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History repeats itself as the Met's 'Untouchables' come under attack from enemies within the force

Condon's corruption crusade faces failure

WITH only 18 months until he retires, Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, knows time is running out for his crusade to purge his force of corruption.

Behind the blacked-out windows of a West London tower block, his handpicked squad, known as The Untouchables, are under pressure to prove Sir Paul's public declaration that there are 250 crooked officers in the Met.

CIB3's efforts are described by many colleagues as "pitiful and pointless". Next week the Police Federation will ask Sir Paul to explain what they claim is the failure of the Yard's most expensive and remarkable undercover operation.

Critics inside the force are sceptical that Sir Paul will get more than a handful of convictions. They say a measure of the rising desperation is that CIB3 has just recruited another 45 officers to what is now a 120-strong team, which is the increase reflects the huge number of allegations, which

"This is an account of corruption, greed and injustice..." With these words on November 29, 1969, The Times began an astonishing exposé of corruption in the capital's police force. Now, nearly 30 years later, Stewart Tendler and Daniel McGroarty report on Commissioner Sir Paul Condon's battle to stamp out latter-day corruption

arrested. A spokesman for the CIB3 unit said it does not discuss investigative techniques, but senior officers insist the stories are untrue.

There are also stories of the investigators viding officers on sick leave up a ladder cleaning windows or on a skiing holiday. The Yard denies CIB3 has been involved in such trivial investigations and says it is evidence of "black propaganda".

What leading figures in the Yard will not say publicly is that the evidence shows that for the past decade and more the force completely believed it had corruption under control. John Stevens, the deputy commissioner, who controls The Untouchables, admits he was shocked when three weeks ago he was handed files detailing the corruption allegations.

One senior officer close to the investigations said: "We believed it was almost non-existent. We had the idea we would wait for someone to complain and then investigate. It was naive."

Some of the Yard's leading detectives are alleged to have pocketed up to £100,000 a time to recycle drugs or lose evidence against major underworld figures. Officers are accused of investigating an armed robbery using an informant and then taking up to £400,000 from the robbers. Others stole drugs ranging from cannabis to heroin from



Former police officers John Donald, left, and Martin King, who were jailed for corrupt practices



Critics doubt Sir Paul Condon will get more than a handful of convictions, despite his figure of 250 crooked officers

dealers and then sold those drugs to other dealers. The first inkling of the extent of the rot came more than four years ago with the arrest of John Donald, a detective on secondment to the South-East Regional Crime Squad. Donald was filmed by the BBC selling secrets to the underworld. He was jailed for 11 years. Other officers were suspected but not charged.

When the undercover operation was launched, the Yard decided on a radical approach, borrowing techniques from the IRA to create a tight-knit operation staffed by "lily-

whites", investigators the crooked detectives would never suspect, and run by a cadre of secret commanders. The Yard even recruited a military analyst with experience of intelligence work in Ulster.

Some of the Yard's most trusted detectives are said to have feigned early retirement or ill health only to return weeks later at CIB3's secret addresses. The investigators' faces were unknown in the underworld and among the big detective squads. Others were placed close to suspect officers. To defend CIB3's reputation

senior figures point to how in May last year they successfully took over an investigation into attempts by two ex-detectives, Duncan Hanrahan and Martin King, to bribe a South London officer to sabotage two cases. Hanrahan is now a supergrass and under police protection. King has been jailed for nine years.

Last December Detective Constable Terry McGuinness, a former Flying Squad officer, was arrested and accused of stealing quantities of cannabis. He has become a second corruption supergrass and a former detective allied with

him is also an informant. Within days the team raided the East London offices of the Flying Squad at Regis Approach in Barkingide and seized tons of documents. It was the prelude to more raids. A total of 20 serving and former officers all linked to Regis Approach had their homes searched. All 15 serving officers were suspended and told they faced allegations dating back to 1992.

The Yard promised yet more raids and suspensions - but last night insiders said it could be many months before that happens.

How an historic investigation exposed a web of deceit

Garry Lloyd recalls how he and Julian Mounter found 'a firm within a firm' in the most famous force in the world

Nearly 30 years ago a young petty thief made a startling allegation to this newspaper, the repercussions of which neither he, nor The Times, could have foreseen. He claimed a senior Scotland Yard detective had planted gelignite on him with the threat of a five-year jail sentence on a trumped-up charge.

He was a likeable lad from South London with a string of convictions for dishonesty whose own allegations proved disturbingly honest. Three decades ago the British public had a naive trust in police probity. This was the era of Dixon of Dock Green.

But the taped evidence was devastating. Blindly unaware we were listening, Detective Sergeant Symonds admitted the existence of his "little firm in a firm. Anywhere in London," he said, "I can get on the phone to someone I know I can trust that talks the same as me."



Garry Lloyd, whose report in The Times in 1969 came at a time of naive trust in police probity

London policemen in bribe allegations

contemptuously at his superior's modest Austin, said: "Is that the best you can do?" Moody could afford his exclusive car if not his haunter. While he pursued us, rather than his corrupt colleagues, he was pocketing thousands of pounds in bribes from Soho photographers with whom he did profitable business as head of the Obscene Publications Squad.

His appointment to The Times inquiry was no accident. It was brought about by Commander Wallace Virgo who sacked Fred Lambert from the task. Virgo and his placeman Moody ultimately shared a similar fate. They were both jailed for 12 years.

Mounter and I never trusted the police to investigate themselves. Our story was published on a Saturday to prevent them seeking a blocking injunction. But we do not consider most coppers are crooks. During the years they treated us as pariahs, one incident still springs to mind. An anonymous detective followed me into a court washroom. As we respectively towelled our hands he astonished me with a quiet comment: "I just want to say you two have done a tremendous job."

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# NO END OF A STRUGGLE

There can be no more compromises on decommissioning

What was to have been a stately procession has become a desperate fight. In his determination to secure support for the Good Friday agreement in Northern Ireland, the Prime Minister has visited the Province twice in seven days, showered money on its economic infrastructure and announced a series of measures to ease the hurt felt by victims of violence. Tony Blair knows that it is overwhelmingly likely that he will secure a "yes" in next week's referendum. But he also knows that endorsement would be perilously fragile without the support of a majority of the Unionist population. Since the agreement was signed Unionist opposition has been growing, and not without justification. Mr Blair now realises, if he did not before, that Good Friday was, to paraphrase Martin McGuinness, only the end of a phase in the struggle and not the end of the struggle itself.

Mr McGuinness's ominous phrase goes to the heart of Mr Blair's problem. Even though Irish republicans have agreed to campaign for the agreement, and take up seats in any future Northern Ireland assembly, the IRA has made it bleakly clear that it has no intention of decommissioning its weapons. At last Sunday's Sinn Fein conference the party's leadership was defiant. The continuity between republicanism's military traditions and its current tactics was offensively underlined at that conference by the appearance on stage of the Balcombe Street murderers. And that appearance crystallised in many Unionist minds the central concern for any democrat. Unless stringent measures are enforced, unrepentant terrorists could be ministers in Ulster's administration while their comrades remain armed in the field.

Opposition to the agreement from Unionists in Northern Ireland can be caricatured as the unthinking rejectionism of politicians who cannot take yes for an answer. The

presence of Dr Ian Paisley at the head of the "no" campaign underlines the impression. But it is dangerously wrong. Many of those most worried are natural democrats, not followers of demagogues, voters exercised by the moral and political danger of appeasing terrorists rather than those who regularly bang the drum for Ulster. They are prepared to live with constitutional change, but not the subversion of the rule of law. They do not view the release of the loyalist killer Michael Stone as a "balancing gesture" to the Protestant community after the Balcombe Street gang's furlough, but further proof that the dynamic behind change in Ulster is violence. It is to them that Mr Blair spoke on Thursday when he promised legislation to require that terrorists hand over their guns and turn their back on violence before they can enjoy the full fruits of the Good Friday agreement.

Mr Blair is undoubtedly sincere, but republicans could interpret his words as bluster. As the distinguished commentator Vincent Browne has noted in *The Irish Times*, the Unionists have been "conned" on decommissioning throughout the talks process. In 1993, both British and Irish Governments stipulated that decommissioning illegal weapons was a precondition of entry to talks. That requirement was waived, as was the subsequent insistence that decommissioning must proceed in parallel with talks. Republicans have called London's bluff repeatedly, and won every time. Mr Blair is privately determined not to buckle, but republicans will inevitably put him to the test. Would he risk a resumption of IRA violence by insisting on decommissioning before Gerry Adams could assume office in Ulster? In the last week before Ireland votes the Prime Minister must show himself prepared to be ruthless in defence of democracy, if democrats are to repose faith in his agreement.

# FORTUNE'S WHEEL

Few G8 leaders look as secure this year as last

This year's G8 summit has convened in an atmosphere of drama. Indonesia is in flames and Kosovo is smouldering dangerously. India has gone nuclear, Pakistan could follow suit and the Arab-Israel peace process seems blocked. The eight leaders — Bill Clinton, Tony Blair, Jacques Chirac, Helmut Kohl, Ryutaro Hashimoto, Romano Prodi, Jean Chretien and Boris Yeltsin — are under greater pressure than usual to announce some clear decisions which have a realistic prospect of success.

The quantity and quality of influence exerted, together or separately, by the "world's leading industrial powers" is under scrutiny. How then does the group's credibility measure up and how has the balance of power within it changed since the leaders last met a year ago? In the context of a diplomatic format that stresses informal bargains, who are today's deal-makers? And how have the political fortunes of its members fared? Who is up and who is down?

On the political league table, Tony Blair, their host, comes out best. He fascinates his peers not only because his Government's domestic popularity has risen during its first year in office, but because he projects an aura of energy and novelty in a club whose other leaders are mostly past their political zenith. Mr Blair scores well, but less highly, in terms of G8 alchemy. Given the prominence of non-European issues this weekend, his empathy with Mr Clinton and warm relations with Mr Hashimoto are assets; but if, on India, Iraq or Israel, there is a split between "Europeans" and the rest, Mr Blair is uncertainly placed to bridge the gap.

That is partly because Herr Kohl and M Chirac will be out to parade Franco-German solidarity after their public row over the European Central Bank and to show that under their joint leadership, EMU is making the European Union a political force to be reckoned with. They have the more incen-

tive to talk "Europe" because at home both are in trouble. M Chirac's star has been in semi-eclipse since the Socialists swept to power last year. As for Herr Kohl, once the strongest brand name in the political business, his dive since last year has been so steep that his party risks electoral defeat.

Their "European" theme will be music to Signor Prodi, whose success at staying in the saddle at all has to be set against his declining clout in the politics of the Italian Left, and perhaps also to Mr Yeltsin, whose advisers believe that they can best maximise Russian leverage by playing the European card harder than the Bill-and-Boris show. That calculation would probably not have been made if Mr Clinton's domination of the international agenda were less in doubt.

A reading of the Dow Jones index and his personal poll ratings would show Mr Clinton's political barometer as set fair. But the White House scandals have not only weakened his grip on Congress, but accentuated the President's tendency to focus only spasmodically on foreign policy. That inattention has had costs, not only in the Middle East, where Binyamin Netanyahu is shrugging off US counsel, but in Belgrade, Delhi and even Jakarta. With the exception of the Asian financial crisis, American diplomacy has recently appeared to limp in the wake of events; and even in Asia, American persuasion has yet to extract from Mr Hashimoto's fumbling Government the reforms needed for a Japanese recovery that alone will set the region back on course.

The G8 summits are important not because they serve as a global governing board, but because they help to avoid the worst through anticipation and the habit of consultation. Mr Blair has tried hard this year to separate "business" from statesmanship. But statesmanship is the preserve of the confident; and in Birmingham this year, that confidence is in short supply.

# AN AMERICAN ARTIST

Sinatra was the supreme interpreter of popular song

Frank Sinatra once confided that: "Having lived a life of violent emotional contradictions, I have an overacute capacity for sadness as well as elation... whatever else is said about me is unimportant. When I sing, I believe." Those who have flown with him, swinging lovers who have danced to him, as well as those who have been in the grip of a mood indigo, will know what he meant. No popular singer this century has captured so perfectly the emotions which enslaved men and women in love. Sinatra's special genius sprang from his emotional range as much as his vocal reach and the many tributes to him will, inevitably, be salutes to a character who understood the importance of sentiment, romance, dignity and danger. But space should be cleared for the laurel he deserves most of all. Sinatra was a great musician — the lyric artist of the American century.

Sinatra was the expert player of two instruments — his voice and the microphone. Where previous singers projected their voice to the far corners of the auditorium, Sinatra developed a new style of intimate song which exploited the microphone's potential. Sinatra took full advantage of the precision and clarity of enunciation which the microphone encourages. He emphasised specific vowel and

consonant sounds to underline lyrical effects, drawing his A in "All or nothing at all" to intensify the impact of the absolute. Sinatra also used the microphone to extend his palette of sounds. The American academic Steven Petkov has noted how Sinatra's swinging version of *Blue Moon* gains from the singer's capacity to distance himself from the microphone then swoop towards it in a seamless accumulation of vocal power which lengthens his already formidable range. That range, and the remarkable breath control which allowed him to hold extended phrases, sprang from training at the elbow of the trombonist Tommy Dorsey. Sinatra developed a smoothness and control which was mechanical in its precision, but ethereal in its effect.

Sinatra was a conjurer of passions, who lived the emotion in his songs and communicated their power with his heart and voice. As Robin Douglas-Home remarked: "The involvement was so close that one might feel he was in the throes of composing both tune and lyrics as he went along... it drained my own energy just watching him. I felt I had actually been living through some strange emotional crisis". That made Sinatra the companion to millions through strange and familiar emotional crises. He was the supreme poet of popular feeling.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Leaders' birthday tribute to VSO

*From the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Liberal Democrats*

Sir, Forty years ago today, the first volunteers left the United Kingdom on what soon became known as Voluntary Service Overseas. Since then, 25,000 men and women have worked overseas and VSO has changed from sending school-leavers to recruiting skilled and qualified professionals to assist communities in building local capacities.

Their work has had a significant effect on people's lives in the developing world. Teachers, midwives, vets and plumbers have all helped to build a brighter future for some of the most disadvantaged people in the world. The reciprocal benefits to the United Kingdom have also been of great value; volunteers return to the UK with new skills, new perspectives and, above all, as ambassadors of global interdependence.

Today, VSO celebrates its 40th birthday confidently facing the challenges and opportunities of the new millennium. It is right that we should pay tribute to what has been achieved by VSO, but we should also recognise that an enormous amount remains to be done in the struggle to eliminate poverty.

Yours sincerely,  
TONY BLAIR,  
WILLIAM HAGUE,  
PADDY ASHDOWN,  
House of Commons,  
May 15.

## Scourge of piracy

*From Mr Trevor Hollingsbee*

Sir, The article on piracy by Andrew Eames (Travel, Weekend, May 9) was most timely. Serious coverage of this issue was long overdue.

The threat posed by this criminal activity continues to worsen. The Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur has done excellent work. The Royal Malaysian Navy has shown the way by instituting effective surveillance and enforcement in the previously crime-infested Malacca Straits.

The problem, though, transcends jurisdictions. Also, the fragmented nature of the shipping industry frequently combines with national sensitivities to thwart efforts to suppress this scourge. Ample capabilities already exist in many areas to put a rapid end to it.

What is lacking is the political will. Urgently needed is a United Nations-led effort to co-ordinate intelligence-gathering and to ensure effective transnational maritime law enforcement.

Yours etc,  
T. S. HOLLINGSBEE  
(Ex-Royal Navy and  
Hong Kong Marine Police),  
c/o Fragrant Harbour Publications,  
1303 Java Commercial Centre,  
123 Java Road,  
North Point, Hong Kong.

## RAC merger fears

*From the Director of the Consumers' Association*

Sir, Amidst the continuing wrangling following the proposed acquisition of the RAC by Cendant (reports, Weekend Money, May 9), what seems to have been forgotten is the detrimental effect this could have on consumers.

It is our understanding that, following the merger, RAC/Cendant would have around 44 per cent of the market share of breakdown services, with a similar share held by the Automobile Association. This increased concentration is particularly worrying given the limited possibility of any significant new entry into the market.

A new entrant would effectively have to establish its own national network and have access to bases and independent repair firms across the country. Ties with retailers appear to be being rapidly carved up between existing players at the moment.

We are very concerned that the proposed merger will lead to a duopoly that will limit innovation and keep subscriptions for consumers high. We believe therefore that it should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Yours sincerely,  
SHEILA MCKECHNIE,  
Director, Consumers' Association,  
2 Marylebone Road, NW1 4DF,  
May 11.

Weekend Money letters, page 61

## Cruelty to animals

*From Mr Peter Talbot Willcox*

Sir, The attention of the RSPCA and the Government should be drawn to two of the reports in your Science Briefing (May 11). You report that it is proposed to feed birds on alternative diets to see whether those that are well fed learn to sing better than those that suffer from malnutrition. All birds in captivity should be well fed.

You also report that chickens are regularly dying while being transported. Ought not such transportation to be illegal and the creatures slaughtered where they are raised?

Yours faithfully,  
PETER TALBOT WILLCOX,  
Thamescroft,  
Sharnley Green, Guildford GU5 0TJ,  
May 12.

## Museums to stir world conscience

*From Dr Peter van den Dungen*

Sir, Professor Joseph Rotblat (letter, May 4; see also letters, May 11) rightly argues for permanent museums to be dedicated to the Holocaust and the atom bomb as appropriate and necessary millennium projects.

An atom bomb museum would be even more meaningful and appealing if it were part of a more comprehensive museum illustrating the history and progress of a millennial aspiration for peace — world peace.

The longing and striving for peace is as old as the practice of warfare; the rich history of peacekeeping and peacemaking through the ages (in Christian and other civilisations) can provide new generations with an inspiring legacy.

A national peace museum would greatly contribute to keeping alive not only the dangers represented by the atomic bomb (and other means of mass destruction), but also that part of humanity's heritage which can help us create a more peaceful world.

A peace museum would also bring to a larger public the work for peace undertaken over a lifetime by such prominent peacemakers of our day as Professor Rotblat and his fellow Nobel Peace Prize laureates.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER VAN DEN DUNGEN  
(Acting Director, International Network of Peace Museums),  
Department of Peace Studies,  
University of Bradford,  
Bradford, West Yorkshire BD7 1DP,  
May 11.

## From Dr Alan M. Calverd

Sir, The carefully managed escalation of irrational prejudice into systematic genocide is still evident today, for instance in Bosnia and Rwanda. The Holocaust may not recur in Western Europe, but a permanent memorial may remind us and our successors to be vigilant of our own conduct and ready to interfere in the affairs of others.

In contrast, the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki can be seen, in its proper context, as a desperate but effective response to sustained aggression. It is clear that the lessons of a nuclear war have been learned and those nations most capable of waging

## Arming nations in debt deplored

*From Lord Jakobovits*

Sir, The eloquent plea by Cardinal Basil Hume for a dramatic debt relief, especially to the poorer nations ("Forgive the poorest their debts — now", May 14), will be heartily endorsed by men of all faiths who care for the removal of what still constitutes one of the most shameful stains on modern civilisation.

Such human indignity inflicted by dire poverty in an age of unprecedented global wealth is an unconscionable blot on our humanity. As the cardinal so aptly observes, such debt cancellation was the essence of the Hebrew Bible's jubilee year.

In many cases, such dire and humiliating poverty is aggravated, if not mainly caused, by the reckless diversion of national resources to arms purchases on a fearful scale. These vast expenditures, often by the poorest nations, on the purchase of arms not only waste precious resources but contribute directly to the killing and maiming of countless citizens who could live in security and a degree of decency.

One hopes the cause of the poorest nations will indeed now become a primary global concern. But such debt relief should be contemplated only for governments prepared to eliminate the purchase of arms from their financial commitments. Otherwise debt relief will only increase human suffering — like repairing leaking dykes without stopping the cause of the leakage.

Yours sincerely,  
JAKOBOVITS,  
House of Lords,  
May 14.

## Radio days

*From Dr Ian Blake*

Sir, I find myself amongst "one in nine" listeners who welcome the changes to BBC Radio 4 (report, May 11).

Nowadays, I can safely switch off at 1.30pm, certain that only tabloid-quizz programmes follow the news. (I also know that, from midday, there'll be an hour's whinge from *You and Yours*, so there is no temptation to switch on before one o'clock.) Furthermore, because I'm no longer sure when *Woman's Hour* is programmed, I don't tune in at all in case I haven't missed it.

I also applaud the trailers; they enable me to avoid accidentally hearing programmes like *Weekend Woman's Hour* and (save the mark!) yet more Archers at the weekend. Moreover, Alistair Cooke is now, cleverly, just too early for Sunday breakfast.

Thank you so much, Mr Boyle, for helping me kick a shameful 20-year addiction to Radio 4, although I must confess the disappearance of *Kaleidoscope* and, with it, Paul Gambaccini, almost made me think you were attempting to hook me again, you naughty man!

I remain yours faithfully,  
IAN BLAKE,  
Blair Cottage, Aulgrishan, Melvaig, Gairloch, Wester Ross IV21 2DG,  
May 11.

## Sanctions on nuclear-armed India

*From Mr R. J. Mehta*

Sir, I reject your view (leading article, May 14; see also letters, same day) that "A nuclear-armed India would be a clear and present threat to Asian security". Furthermore, I would say that your statement that "The goal of preventing the emergence of two mutually hostile nuclear powers in South Asia must surely be worth the risk of international controversy" is redundant because these countries have already emerged as such.

Pushing them further will help neither these countries nor the cause of nuclear non-proliferation. There are indications that at least India may be inclined to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and/or the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty now that they have joined the "club".

Shouldn't all efforts be made in that direction?

Yours truly,  
R. J. MEHTA,  
18 Leigh Court,  
Byron Hill Road,  
Harrow-on-the-Hill,  
Middlesex HA2 0HZ,  
May 14.

## Off the rails

*From Mr Peter Cadbury*

Sir, Yesterday morning I joined the M3 motorway at exit 5, some 42 miles southwest of London, at 8.15am for a 10am appointment in London. By 9.30am I had reached exit 3 (a distance of 15 miles), having been stationary for an hour.

Eventually the traffic moved and I found the cause of the hold-up was a convoy of three rail coaches, which by that time had been parked on the hard shoulder. It is hard to imagine who decided to take those coaches down the M3 during the rush hour, when the motorway would have been clear at night. Perhaps this is the latest ploy of the ministry to drive motorists off the roads and on to the trains?

I was late for my appointment, but I wonder how many people missed their flights at Heathrow and/or Gatwick due to this deliberate act of cross stupidity by a faceless bureaucrat, who presumably can never be identified? I hope those unlucky passengers will sue the rail company and/or the Department of Transport.

Yours truly,  
PETER CADBURY,  
Upton Grey Lodge,  
Upton Grey, nr Basingstoke,  
Hampshire RG25 2RE,  
May 13.

## What conspiracy?

*From Lord Hollick*

Sir, I am reluctant to be a spoilsport, but Charles Lewington's tale of conspiracy at *The Express* ("Who's wagging the dog?", Media Times, May 15) was nonsense.

Rosie Boycott and Richard Addis have been solely responsible for all editorial appointments to *The Express*, without any involvement from me whatsoever. It was entirely the Editor's decision to appoint Tony Bevins and not Paul Routledge as political editor. The Editor can be assured of my staunch support, if the need arises, to see off any attempt by any outsiders to influence appointments or editorial coverage.

Had Charles Lewington bothered to check with me he would have been able to write an accurate account of events.

Yours sincerely,  
CLIVE HOLLICK,  
United News & Media plc,  
Ludgate House,  
245 Blackfriars Road, SE1 9UY,  
May 15.

## Business-speak

*From Mr Peter Hillman*

Sir, How about a van inscribed "Complete Logistics" (letters, April 30, May 8, 12), which also offered "Handling and Fulfillment"? Had I not been passing it at 70mph on the M1 I might have been tempted to inquire further.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER HILLMAN,  
87 Primrose Copse,  
Horsham, West Sussex RH12 5PZ,  
May 12.

## Letters should carry a daytime telephone number

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## Handel museum

*From Mrs Marguerite Clarke*

Sir, I am writing as a deeply concerned member of the Handel House Foundation of America, Inc. which, for over three years, has been working hand in hand with the Handel House Trust in London in connection with the creation of a Handel Museum (report, April 30; letter, May 7).

Much interest in this project has been shown all over America. We fully believe that the Handel House Museum would be realized as it was originally conceived by Stanley and Julie Anne Sadie.

The fact that there will be no education centre where American musicians — and indeed musicians from around the globe — can come to study and learn, and even perform, has changed the whole picture.

We had envisioned the Handel House Museum as a truly international museum for all future generations. It is inconceivable that this rich heritage could be lost.

Yours sincerely,  
MARGUERITE CLARKE,  
609 William Street,  
River Forest, Illinois 60305,  
May 10.

## Business-speak

*From Mr Peter Hillman*

Sir, How about a van inscribed "Complete Logistics" (letters, April 30, May 8, 12), which also offered "Handling and Fulfillment"? Had I not been passing it at 70mph on the M1 I might have been tempted to inquire further.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER HILLMAN,  
87 Primrose Copse,  
Horsham, West Sussex RH12 5PZ,  
May 12.

## Business-speak

*From Mr Paul Ferris*

Sir, Nothing to do with the sides of lorries, but a computer deliveryman I was arguing with yesterday said he would have to consult his optimiser.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL FERRIS,  
Blauenau,  
Boughrood, Powys LD3 0LQ,  
May 12.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE: The Duke of York, Patron, this evening attended a Dinner given by the Royal Jersey Golf Club at the Royal Hotel, David Place, St Helier.
BUCKINGHAM PALACE: May 15: The Prince Edward, Honorary Chairman, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award for Young Canadians Challenge Charter for Business, this afternoon hosted a Presentation and Lunch at Buckingham Palace.
BUCKINGHAM PALACE: May 15: The Princess Royal today visited Shropshire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Mr Algeron Heber-Percy).



Tim Fillingham and Nicki Hawkes, of southwest London, who recently announced their engagement

Royal engagements

TODAY: The Prince of Wales, as patron, Music in Country Churches, will attend a concert by Murray Perahia at the Priory Church of St Mary, St Katharine and All Saints, Edington, Wiltshire, 8.00.
The Princess Royal will visit HMS King Alfred, Whale Island, Portsmouth at 11.00.
Lord High Commissioner, Lord Hogg of Cumbernauld, Lord Hogg of Cumbernauld to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and Lady Hogg yesterday arrived in Edinburgh to take up residence at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

Dinners

Young, MP, were the speakers. Among other present were: Lady Young, the Recorder of the City of London, the President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and Mrs Gorman, the Master of the Brewers' Company and Mrs Wychall, the Master of the Saddlers' Company and Mrs Pearson, the Commanding Officer of the Household Cavalry and Mrs Scott, the Corps Commander of Women's Transport Service (RANI) and Colonel L Rose, the Editor of Horse and Hound and Mrs Garvey, the President of the National Association of Farmers, Blacksmiths and Agricultural Engineers and Mrs Preston, the Secretary of the Horserace Betting Levy Board, and Registrar of the Jockey Club, Mrs Williamson-Nobel and Mr R Pritchard.

Memorial service

Sir James Tait A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir James Sharp Tait, Principal of the Northampton College of Advanced Technology 1976-81 and Vice-Chancellor of the University 1986-74, was held yesterday in the Crypt Chapel of St Paul's Cathedral. The Rev Michael Seward, Canon in Residence, officiated, assisted by the Rev Lucy Whitsett, Minor Canon, Dr Arch Tait, son, and Professor Raoul Franklin, Vice-Chancellor of the City University, read the lessons. Professor Ludwik Finkelstein, of the City University, and the Rev David Marsden, gave addresses.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr W.A. Baby and Miss A.J.M. Garston The engagement is announced between Anthony, son of Mr and Mrs Desmond Baby, of Shepley, Yorkshire, and Annabel, daughter of Mr Michael Garston, of Holland Park, and of Mrs Anthony Meyer, of Kensington, London.
Mr G.R.C. Brooke and Miss V.J. Gemmel The engagement is announced between Graham, son of Mr and Mrs Bob Brooke, of Poole, Dorset, and Victoria, daughter of Mr Basil Gemmel, of Greenwich, London, and Mrs Jean Hodson, of Tysoe, Warwickshire.

Christ's Hospital

Christ's Hospital, near Horsham, West Sussex, yesterday hosted a visit by Members of the Corporation of London.

Service dinner

205 (Scottish) Field Hospital (V) Officers of 305 (Scottish) Field Hospital (V) held their annual camp regimental dinner last night in Chester.

Church news

Canon George Tolley, Honorary Canon of Sheffield Cathedral (Sheffield): to be Canon Emeritus of Sheffield Cathedral (same diocese).
Canon Michael Wadsworth, Vicar, Huddersham and Wilburton (Ely): to be Priest-in-Charge, Great Shelford (same diocese).

Anniversaries

TODAY BIRTHS: Richard Tauber, tenor, 1892; Henry Ford, actor, Grand Island, Nebraska, 1905; Woody Herman, musician, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1913; Liberace, pianist, West Allis, Wisconsin, 1919.
DEATHS: Pietro da Cortona, painter and architect, Rome, 1669; Sir Edmund Gosse, critic, London, 1928; Bronislaw Malinowski, anthropologist, New Haven, Connecticut, 1942.

Marriage

Mr R.A.J. Crampton and Miss N.H. Almond The marriage took place on Saturday, May 2, in St Bride's, London, between Mr Robert Crampton and Miss Nicola Almond.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Canon Reginald Askew, former Dean, King's College London, 70; Mrs Rosie Barnes, chief executive, Cystic Fibrosis, 52; Mr P. C. Clarke, author, 70; Mr Philip Clarke, author, 70; Mr Colin Cole, former Garter Principal King of Arms, 76; Mr Don Concanon, former MP, 68; Miss Judy Finnigan, broadcaster, 50; Sir Nicholas Goodison, deputy chairman, Lloyds TSB Group, 64; Mr Roy Hood, comedian, 62; Sir David Iwanora, former President of The Gambia, 74; Mr Christian Lacroix, fashion designer, 47; Major-General Sir Desmond Langley, 68; Professor Peter Levi, poet and archaeologist, 67; Mr David Maclean, MP, 45; Mr Stephen Marjan, group director, Insurance and Investment Division, Lloyds TSB Group, 53; Professor K.O. Morgan, FBA, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Wales, 64; Professor Sir Gareth Roberts, FRS, Vice-Chancellor, Sheffield University, 58; Miss Gabriela Sawley, author, 28; The Right Rev Kenneth Skilton, former Bishop of Lichfield, 80; Mr Nigel Twiston-Davies, racehorse trainer, 41; General Sir Antony Walker, 64; Sir Charles Wilson, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Glasgow University, 89; Sir Russell Wood, Deputy Treasurer to the Queen, 76.

Appointments

Sir John Drummond to be Chairman of The Theatres Trust. Mr Maryn Highnam and Sir Stephen Waley-Cohen to be trustees.

PRINCESS MARGARET TO SEEK A DIVORCE

After living apart for two years, Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon are to seek a divorce. A statement from Kensington Palace said: "Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, and the Earl of Snowdon, after two years of separation, have now agreed that their marriage should be formally ended. Accordingly her Royal Highness will start the necessary legal proceedings."

ON THIS DAY

May 16, 1978

Five days after Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon said that they were to divorce, Koddy Llewellyn, with whom the Princess had had a long friendship, told reporters that he would never marry her and that he did not consider himself in any way responsible for the divorce.
The two children of the marriage, Lord Linley and Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, will continue to live with their mother when they are not at Bedales School, Petersfield, as they have done since the separation.



Princess Margaret: divorce after two years apart

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS: FITZPATRICK - On May 12th, to Christopher and Elizabeth, a son, Edward West Williams.
BIRTHS: BLAIR - On April 27th 1998, to James and Alison, a son, James Blair.
BIRTHS: BOLTON-PATEL - On May 13th, to the late Mr. and Mrs. R. Patel, a son, Nihal Patel.

DEATHS: COMBISH - On 11th May 1998, at home, aged 82, Mrs. Elizabeth Combish, nee Williams, a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. Williams.
DEATHS: GIBSON - On 12th May 1998, at home, aged 82, Mrs. Elizabeth Gibson, nee Williams, a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. Williams.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE: MARGARET - Passed 8th April 1998, aged 84, Mrs. Margaret, nee Williams, a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. Williams.
IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE: MARGARET - Passed 8th April 1998, aged 84, Mrs. Margaret, nee Williams, a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. Williams.

Advertisement for Delta WorldWide featuring flight routes and prices. Includes a table with destinations like Sydney, Perth, Bangkok, Nairobi, New York, Melbourne, Auckland, Bali, Jo'burg, Los Angeles and their respective fares.

Arabic text at the bottom of the page: "كندا من الأصل" (Canada from the original).





Equities continue fall

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E

BANKS table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E

BUILDING MATERIALS table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E

CHEMICALS table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E

CONSTRUCTION table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E

DISTRIBUTORS table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Chg, P/E

1998 Low Company Price % Chg P/E

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MITEL advertisement with logo and text: Exceptional exchanges. Simply Communicating. Tel: 070 909 7070 www.mitel.com/uk

Large advertisement on the right side of the page with text: OFF la... inqui... Northe... Newwoods to en... I love all my...



SHAPING UP 30 Private health clubs start to flex muscles

BUSINESS

WEEKEND MONEY SECTION 2

SATURDAY MAY 16 1998

American bidders prepare to move in on Gleneagles



Gleneagles, where facilities include a spa, an equestrian centre and the Jackie Stewart Shooting School, was acquired by Guinness in 1985 as part of the Bell's whisky takeover

DIAGEO, the food and drink giant spawned from the merger of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan, is considering the future of Gleneagles after receiving at least one offer of more than £100 million for the Scottish hotel and golf resort.

The group is said to have received several unsolicited approaches in recent weeks and industry sources believe a suitor, probably one of America's real estate investment trusts (Reits), is pressing to be granted a period of exclusivity to conduct due diligence on the property.

A City source said: "These approaches are at a level where Diageo would be mad not to sell, although they claim they haven't made a decision and are still reviewing their options."

Starwood Hotels & Resorts, which recently paid \$51.5 million (£32 million) for the Turnberry Hotel and golf courses in Ayrshire, is considered a likely bidder alongside two rival Reits, Meditrust and Patriot American Hospitality. A spokesman for Diageo said last night that there were "constant rumours" over the hotel's future and it was the group's policy never to comment. But he added: "Clearly, as with any other part of the group, if third parties were to make an approach to the company and these were deemed to be in the interest of shareholders, then the board would have to consider them."

OFT launches inquiry into Northern Rock

By SUSAN EMMETT AND GAVIN LUMSDEN

SHARES in high street banks dived after the Office of Fair Trading launched an investigation into Northern Rock and threatened the rest of the sector with legal action if it did not ensure fairness in contracts with customers.

The move comes amid mounting controversy surrounding Northern Rock, which reorganised its accounts, slashing rates without warning and denying almost 260,000 savers the freedom to move elsewhere without notice. John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, said the complaints about Northern Rock suggested the bank had "a cavalier attitude to savers".

Analysts fear the investigation could cost the banks millions of pounds and wipe £10 million off Northern Rock's profits if savers moved their money. The treatment of customers by banks has drawn increasing political fire. The Treasury is looking at tightening the banking code after David Davis, chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, raised

concerns Mr Davis, Conservative MP for Halton and Howden, said: "The Northern Rock is the obvious tip of the iceberg in the question of amending people's accounts. What they did crudely and overtly, many do in a more subtle way. I hope that the OFT looks at the tactics of the rest of the industry."

Mr Bridgeman said the results of the investigation could allow him to look at the practices of other banks. He said: "Finding unfair terms in the contract used by one bank will allow me to look at similar terms in other contracts, and I am prepared to do this if any bank fails to put its own house in order. Unfair contract terms have no place in modern banking and should be removed without delay."

One analyst said the OFT's action signalled a watershed in the increasingly competitive savings market. "People are starting to shop around for savings rates. This is squeezing the net interest margins [the profit banks make from the difference between their sav-

ings and lending rates] of banks like Barclays, Lloyds TSB and NatWest." After a drop in Northern Rock's standard variable mortgage rate from 8.7 per cent to 8.5 per cent earlier this year, the bank cut savings rates by nearly 2 per cent for some and reduced the number of postal accounts from 11 to three. The move affected about one in five of its savers.

Despite Northern Rock's pledge to inform all its customers of any changes, many were unaware they had lost out until *The Times* highlighted the issue. Leo Finn, chief executive of Northern Rock, said: "We sincerely believe we have acted with the highest standards of probity and good faith in this, as in all matters concerning our dealings with our customers. The issues the OFT raise are industry-wide and do not simply affect Northern Rock." He said Northern Rock will cooperate fully with the OFT.

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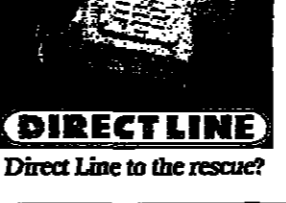
Direct Line Rescue to take on AA and RAC

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

DIRECT LINE, which revolutionised car insurance with its phone-based service, will today take on the AA and RAC with a concerted campaign to break into the roadside rescue market.

The insurer believes that it can capitalise on some of the uncertainty in the £1-billion-a-year market after the takeover of first the third-largest operator, Green Flag, and then RAC Motoring Services, by Centand Corporation. Direct Line Rescue claims it can undercut the traditional breakdown services by as much as 50 per cent, reducing costs by using existing telephone customer services and a network of 1,500 garage contractors.

Direct Line Rescue argues that the two biggest breakdown firms are "sleeping giants" that have failed to tailor their products sufficiently to drivers.



Direct Line to the rescue?

Allied Carpets left feeling weather-beaten

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

MUCH OF THE COUNTRY. Hopes that trading would pick up after Easter, particularly over the May Day Bank Holiday, were dashed and the group believes that they will not recover in the remaining six weeks of the current financial year.

The company said that it expects profit to be "considerably below the level of 1996-97", when it made £16.2 million before tax. Analysts immediately downgraded forecasts, with the house broker, ABN Amro Hoare Govett, moving down £4 million to £13 million.

Mr Nethercott said that he had detected "an absence of consumer confidence" and said that "the further North we go, the worse it gets". The "middle-to-lower" part of the market has been worst hit, he said. He expects sales to be between 5 and 10 per cent lower and called for a reduction in interest rates as the only way to boost consumer spending once again.

He said that plans to open 20 more stores in the coming year have not been altered and neither store closures nor job cuts were likely.

Stoves, the cooker company, added to the gloom, saying that its profits are likely to be flat this year and well below market expectations. This sent its shares plunging 49p to 158p. It said the strength of sterling had hit sales, with white goods made in continental European countries becoming very competitively priced in the UK.

Ray Nethercott, managing director of Allied Carpets, said that after a strong start to 1998 sales at Easter had been hit by the heavy rain and flooding in

Commentary, page 29 Tempus, page 31

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES table with columns for FTSE 100, FTSE All Share, Nikkei, New York, Dow Jones, S&P Composite.

US RATE table with columns for Federal Funds, Long Bond, Yield.

LONDON MONEY table with columns for 3-month interest, 6-month interest, 12-month interest.

STERLING table with columns for New York, London, Frankfurt, Paris, Rome, Madrid, Athens, Tokyo.

DOLLAR table with columns for London, Frankfurt, Paris, Rome, Madrid, Athens, Tokyo.

NORTH SEA OIL table with columns for Brent 15-day (Aug), Brent 15-day (Sep), Brent 15-day (Oct), Brent 15-day (Nov), Brent 15-day (Dec).

GOLD table with columns for London close, Tokyo close.

INDONESIA table with columns for Jakarta Composite, Jakarta Composite (excl. banking shares).

Indonesia crisis takes toll of UK banks

By RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT. A SLUMP in banking shares amid growing concern about the crisis in Indonesia turned the screens red on the London stock market yesterday. The FTSE 100 index shed 30.7 points to close at 5,917.5, the fourth consecutive drop in as many days.

UK retail banks were hit hardest, with Bank of Scotland and Lloyds TSB both losing more than 3 per cent of their market value. Standard Chartered continued to lose ground - off 6p at the close - reflecting its £1 billion exposure to Indonesia, where the death toll has risen to at least 165 after a blaze at a Jakarta shopping centre. Standard Chartered said it had begun to evacuate some of the foreign staff from its five main offices in the country.

Other British companies, including BG and BP, have also started to pull out staff from riot-torn Jakarta. However, HSBC said it had no immediate plans to evacuate its staff. As Indonesian dealers stayed at home, the country's stock market and battered currency, the rupiah, both won a brief respite from the turmoil. Jakarta's main index crept up 0.55 per cent to finish the day at 405.937.

Commentary, page 29

Littlewoods to end 'too costly' FA Cup sponsorship

By JASON NISSE AND SARAH CUNNINGHAM

LITTLEWOODS Pools is set to end its sponsorship of the FA Cup after today's final between Arsenal and Newcastle United. The group, whose association with football dates back more than

60 years, paid £14 million for a three-year deal but is unwilling to pay the £25 million the Football Association is demanding for a new four-year deal, to start in August. The withdrawal of Littlewoods may leave the FA without a sponsor for the competition next year, costing it as much as £6 million in

revenue. Sponsorship consultants believe the FA may be pricing the cup out of the sponsorship market. Littlewoods said yesterday that the sponsorship was "under serious review". It said that although the deal was happy with the deal which had made it the first sponsor of the competition, changes in the struc-

ture of the Littlewoods Organisation over the last couple of years meant that the group was now more focussed on retailing than its pools business, and it is looking for different ways to promote its brand. It is also understood that Littlewoods was concerned that the name of the competition "The FA

Cup sponsored by Littlewoods Pools" meant that often the company name was lost. The FA's insistence that the sponsor's name cannot become part of the title is putting off other potential sponsors. "If they relinquished on this point it would be a key element in winning a new sponsor," said Nigel Currie, of

the European Sports Marketing Association. Martin Thomas, of Cohn & Wolfe, the marketing group, said the FA was in danger of pricing itself out of the market. Bergkamp out, page 1 Wembley preview, page 33

narchy in Indonesia, nuclear testing in India and a fiery encounter for Bill Gates, the chairman of Microsoft. Such was the backdrop to a steamy British week, which saw Anita and Gordon Roddick step back from Body Shop and shares in Thomson Travel Group soar to a healthy first-day premium. Pressure from institutional shareholders lies behind the changes at Body Shop, which see senior executives brought in to run the show. Patrick Gournay joins as chief executive in mid-July, leaving the Roddicks to share the role of chairman. Mrs Roddick will remain responsible for the company's image. In America, the filing of a broad anti-

trust lawsuit against Microsoft was averted at the last minute, when the group agreed to delay the launch of Windows 98, its updated computer operating system. A final settlement is likely to include curbs on the company's presence in the Internet browser market. This week's mega-bid comes from SBC Communications, a Texan telecoms company, which unveiled an agreed \$71 billion (£43.5 billion) offer for Ameritech, a competitor based in Chicago. The deal

will create America's largest telephone business and the enlarged group will have a sizeable presence in Europe. Courtaulds, the chemicals group that last month agreed to a £1.83 billion takeover offer from Akzo Nobel, said it was in talks with PPG Industries, an American coatings company, about a possible counterbid. Seagram, the Canadian drinks and entertainments group, is said to be close to paying Philips \$10 billion (£6 billion)

for PolyGram, the world's largest record company. BMW ruled out making a higher offer for Rolls-Royce Motor Cars. Its £340 million bid was pipped by a £430 million offer from Volkswagen. Sumitomo Corporation is paying £158 million (£97 million) to American and UK regulators in settlement of the \$2.6 billion copper scandal perpetrated by Yasuo Hamanaka, its former chief metals trader. Shares in Thomson Travel jumped to

a 14 per cent premium when trading opened on Monday. The group had clawed back allocations to institutions to satisfy demand from private investors. George Soros, the billionaire financier, is said to have speculated up to \$8 billion that the pound will fall sharply in the next six months. Economic statistics suggest that UK manufacturing is now officially in recession, with output falling for two successive quarters. Other figures show earnings close to a six-year

high, bringing warnings that interest rates may have to rise. Rioting in Indonesia left currencies and shares sharply lower across the region. America imposed economic sanctions on India for defying nuclear protocol. The UK stopped short of imposing sanctions. Native American Indians and Indonesian tribal spokesmen had their say at the annual meeting of Rio Tinto, the mining group, which endured protests from unions and environmentalists. The company said its Australian union adversary made Arthur Scargill look like a modern-day trade unionist.

JON ASHWORTH

Advertisement for BBC Radio 4 featuring the quote: "...being of sound mind, I leave all my worldly goods to my hamster, Simon." Includes BBC Radio 4 logo and website information.



Jean-Francois Decaux is obsessive about work

Frenchman who advertises his intentions

Jean-Francois Decaux will be lucky to get much sleep this weekend. The chief executive of JC Decaux has spent the past 16 years turning the outdoor advertising company created by his father...

chief executive, who has made no secret of his distaste for the French company, and has even publicly described M Decaux as "two baguettes short of a picnic".



IN THE HOT SEAT

Born in Paris on March 8, 1952. Went to work in the US in 1978. Enrolled at Supérieur de Gestion (ESG) in Paris to study business in 1979, and at the same time took a law degree at the Paris V university.

In any event, it is unlikely that M Decaux could ever tolerate Mr Parry's flippancy. The Frenchman is obsessive about his work, and spends much of his time walking the streets of foreign cities looking for potential billboard sites.

daughters at his family's plush house in London's Holland Park. He sometimes plays polo. When pushed, he admits that the business is his main hobby, and that his inability to oversee the minutiae of every aspect of the Decaux empire deeply pains him.

roads. To get around the legislation, he created the concept of street furniture. The history of the business paints a picture of an eccentric yet brilliant family. Decaux fils says he and his father share "an understanding".

CHRIS AYRES

Airbus wins \$2bn order from SIA

AIRBUS has won a \$2 billion (£1.23 billion) order from Singapore Airlines (SIA) for up to ten passenger aircraft, powered by Rolls-Royce engines.

The airline has placed a firm order for five long-range A340-500s and had agreed an option for a further five. The aircraft will be powered by Rolls-Royce Trent 553 engines, which are valued at about \$400 million.

SIA plans to use the new wide-bodied aircraft on a non-stop service between Singapore and Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Lopez double

Lopez, the communications and marketing group, announced two acquisitions worth up to £11 million. The company is buying Potorama, the promotional services and product provider, for an initial £4.3 million, with a further profit-related payment of up to £6 million.

Dresdner ahead

Dresdner Bank, Germany's second-largest commercial bank and parent company of Kleinwort Benson, lifted first-quarter profits 31 per cent to DMB87 million (£306 million). Net commission income climbed 23 per cent to DM1.5 billion, with net interest income rising 12 per cent to almost DM2 billion.

Regulator reprimands Roscos from early government curbs

By ADAM JONES

PRIVATISED train rolling stock companies were given a clean bill of health by the Rail Regulator yesterday, escaping the immediate threat of government regulation. However, they were told that they have to come up with a code of conduct.

The three rolling stock companies, known as Roscos, had faced the threat of Government intervention to ensure that they did not abuse their market dominance when negotiating leasing contracts with train operating companies (TOCs).

But yesterday, John Swift, the Rail Regulator, said: "Regulation of the rolling stock market should be introduced only as a last resort." He said regulation would increase prices and other measures to encourage competition and to stamp out anti-competitive behaviour must be tried first.

TOCs are "being managed on the whole in a mature and sensible manner".

In January, Mr Swift had been asked by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, to look into how Roscos might be able to abuse their market positions.

The Roscos are not subject to the Railways Act 1993. They are: Porterbrook, part of Stagecoach, which also operates trains; Angel Trains, which had been owned by Nomura but was recently sold to Royal Bank of Scotland; and Eversholt, owned by HSBC.

A National Audit Office report criticised their privatisation, saying they were sold by the state at a £1 billion discount to their value.

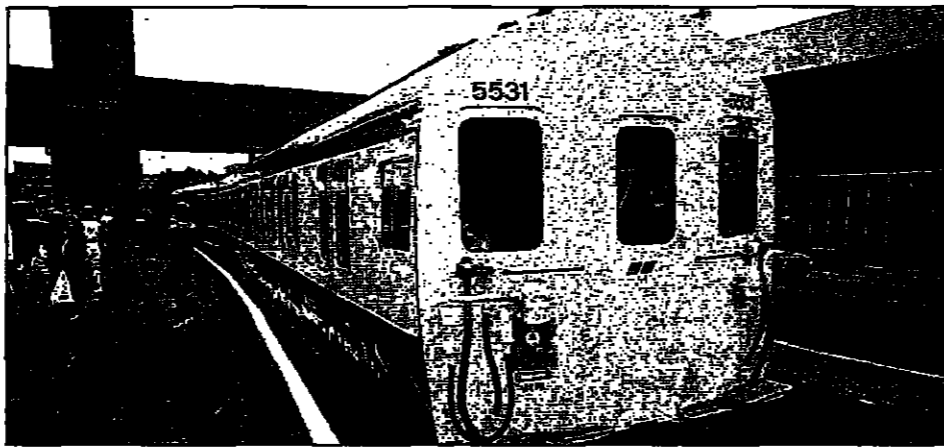
In March, a Parliamentary select committee said it was worried that the Roscos could have too much power over the TOCs when the present lease contracts end. Most come up for renewal in 2003 and 2004.

Mr Swift said yesterday that any further concentration of ownership of Roscos should be resisted. There should be no more instances of one company owning both a train operating company and a Rosco, as is the case with Stagecoach.

Although there is no power to stop this cross-ownership under the Railways Act, a spokesman for Mr Swift said he could advise the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that such a deal would be anti-competitive.

Angel Trains said yesterday that it aims to publish its code of conduct in the autumn. Stagecoach welcomed the report and said it looked forward to discussing a code with Mr Swift. Its shares rose from £2.06 to £2.15.

Mr Swift said: "My recommendations envisage rules of conduct, determined by principles of public accountability, designed to avoid market failure and aimed first at agreement by negotiation."



Rolling on: the rail regulator is not planning curbs on rolling stock companies

Firms review pension schemes

By CAROLINE MERRILL

SOME of the UK's biggest companies are reviewing their pensions schemes because of the continuing poor performance of the biggest pension fund managers.

Figures from CAPS, the statistics company, show that over the last year the performances of Gartmore, PDMF and Mercury have severely lagged other managers.

These three, together with Schroders, dominate the pension fund industry. The CAPS figures show that Gartmore and PDMF were bottom and fourth from bottom out of a total of 66 managers, while Mercury was in 56th position.

In light of the poor performance, trustees of the UK's investment away from Mercury Asset Management to Legal & General Watson Wyatt, which with Bacon & Woodrow advises many of the UK's biggest schemes, believes that the size of big pension fund managers prevents them from giving their clients the best performance.

Weekend Money, pages 52, 56

Settlement hits Philip Morris

By A CORRESPONDENT

PHILIP MORRIS, America's largest cigarette manufacturer, revised its first-quarter results to account for a \$492 million (£290 million) charge to pay for its share of the tobacco industry's settlement with the state of Minnesota.

The company said the charge reduced net income to \$1.3 billion. Earlier this week, Loews Corp, which owns Lorillard Tobacco, restated its first-quarter loss to account for a \$75 million charge to pay its part of the \$6.16 billion settlement.

Philip Morris makes Marlboro cigarettes, Kraft cheese and Miller beer. Earlier this week it said it would raise cigarette prices by five cents per pack, a move that Wall Street analysts said should cover the costs imposed by the Minnesota settlement.

Buoyant message from P&O Cruises

P&O CRUISES is doing particularly well and looks set for a record year, Lord Sterling of Plaistow, chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting. He expects the group to make further progress this year but warned shareholders that there will be further reorganisation costs.

Lord Sterling said that P&O Ferries' cross-Channel market is growing strongly even though Eurotunnel is now fully operational. The 60-40 joint venture, P&O Stena Line, has been well received and the group is driving ahead with the cost savings, he said.

SHARES in Crest Packaging fell from 57 1/2 p to 49 1/2 p after the company said that profits for the year to April 30 will be below market estimates. Analysts had been forecasting £3.5 million, against a previous £3.8 million.

TRING INTERNATIONAL, the discount CD supplier whose shares have been suspended at 6 1/2 p, has received two proposals for alternative financing. The shares were suspended after shareholders voted against a £1.1 million fundraising proposed by Tring. The company said: "The board and its advisers... anticipate that a decision, as to which proposal, if either, is to be recommended to shareholders, will be made within the next three weeks."

MATTEL INC, the American toy manufacturer, yesterday said it was "considering its position" in the light of the rival offer for Bluebird Toys from Guinness Peat Group (GPG), the investment company. On Thursday GPG made an increased and final offer of 116p a share, valuing Bluebird at £48.2 million. Bluebird's shares were unchanged at 115p yesterday. GPG's raised offer compares with Mattel's 111p agreed offer, which trumped GPG's original 101p hostile bid.

JERMYN INVESTMENT PROPERTIES is acquiring ELP Property Group, whose portfolio of office and retail investments is based primarily in the South and South East, for £30.7 million. The acquisition will be funded by a £40 million placing and open offer of convertible loan stock. ELP has 21 properties yielding more than 10 per cent gross per year. Ray Horney, chairman of Jermyn, is a director of ELP, in which one of his companies has a 25 per cent interest.

SHARES in Sutcliffe Speakman rose 3p to 23 1/2 p after the chemicals group said that it was in discussions that may lead to the sale of several subsidiaries. Shareholders were promised a further announcement on the talks over Sutcliffe Speakman Carbons Ltd, Sutcliffe Croftshaw Ltd and Barneby & Sutcliffe Corp. The chemicals and environmental engineering company lifted pre-tax profits to £4.6 million from £3.6 million in the year to March 31, 1997, in spite of difficult trading conditions.

VDC, the AIM-listed distributor of products and supplies to the animal and dental healthcare markets, saw pre-tax profits for the year to May 31, are expected to be below market expectations but ahead of the previous year's £1.67 million. The shares fell 32p to 140p. VDC said that the dental market has remained flat in the second half and the consumables business within Procure has not shown the modest increases in sales that were expected.

Free flights on Concorde.

1. To be eligible to enter this competition a person must (i) be aged 18 years old or over and reside in the UK or Ireland and (ii) between 12 May 1998 - 6 June 1998 inclusive book (or be booked by someone else) from within the UK or Ireland through British Airways Telephone Sales, British Airways Travel Shops, British Airways Travel Agents, newsletters, UK or Ireland travel agents or on the Internet...

US reunion still possible for BA

BRITISH AIRWAYS and US Airways, its former American partner airline, could join forces once more as part of a broader alliance - provided all legal action between the two carriers is settled.

BA has not ruled out reuniting with US Airways, formerly USAir, which last month unveiled a marketing alliance with American Airlines. BA and American are separately seeking approval for a wide-ranging alliance, allowing them to combine schedules on the lucrative North Atlantic run.

France makes first move in European defence shake-up

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS
A MOVE by the French Government to strengthen ties between Dassault Aviation and Aérospatiale is a prelude to widespread restructuring of Europe's aerospace and defence industries, analysts said yesterday.

TOURIST RATES

Table with 3 columns: Country, Bank, and Rate. Includes entries for Australia, Austria, Belgium, etc.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Just as likely to be based in St James's as in Broadgate, and minus the garish braces and pinstripes of the classic City banker, the private equity executive is the epitome of success 1990s style...

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page containing various text and graphics, including the word 'Rock' at the top and 'Microsoft and Klein begin anti-trust battle' in the middle.

# Rock's words fall on stony ground

Grabbing someone's savings and transferring them from one account to another that pays considerably less interest is a move capable of more than one interpretation. The charitable might view it as misguided; others might regard it as tantamount to theft. What is certain is that the person who has seen his income shrink, because of the unilateral decision of the organisation he invested with, is unlikely to believe that he has been treated "with the highest standards of probity and good faith".

Yet those were the words that the Northern Rock's chief executive, Leo Finn, was still clinging to last night to describe the outrageous behaviour of his organisation.

The bank's refusal to accept that there is anything remiss in the way it has deprived customers of cash they had, effectively, been promised could turn out to be the most damaging part of the whole affair.

It has long been established that the business that upsets a customer but then makes a real effort to provide redress is rewarded with a customer whose loyalty has significantly increased. So well proven is this theory that some businesses have been known to make deliberate slip-ups occasionally just so that they can right the wrong and enhance their relationship with the (briefly) aggrieved customer. But it is safe to say that

Northern Rock was not playing any such sophisticated games when it decided, in the name of "simplifying" its offer, to transfer investors' money from accounts paying one rate of interest to those paying less. The supposed *quid pro quo* for the change was a cut in the notice period before funds could be withdrawn, yet for savers who want their money to stay put and keep earning, being able to withdraw after two months instead of three is hardly recompense for a loss of interest.

Since Weekend Money drew attention to Northern Rock's high-handed behaviour, investors have besieged the bank. The response they have received, if they have managed the exasperating task of getting past the engaged tone, has eradicated, rather than built on, what vestiges of customer loyalty might have been left towards the former building society.

And it seems Northern Rock's attitude has rankled with John Bridgeman. The Director General of Fair Trading may only be looking into complaints against the bank but the language that he uses to describe what he has found so far sounds with fury. The stock market read the subtext of phrases such as "cave-

lier attitude to savers" and sent Rock shares tumbling.

The ultimate sanction of losing its banking licence is unlikely to be applied, but a bank needs more than a licence; it needs customers. In an increasingly competitive market, treating those people with disdain can earn the most devastating of penalties. If Leo Finn and his team wait for the OFT to report before trying to appease angry savers it could be too late.

## Birmingham backs the looters

Great nations' expressions of total support for international monetary institutions and human rights in Indonesia will make Chinese merchants there feel a lot better, if they chance to find out before being butchered in the looters' pogrom. Sure, protesters want to get rid of President Suharto. Who

## COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

wouldn't, apart from the G7 governments that supported him all these years? But rioters are mainly after cash.

They need the money to buy food and other subsistence items. These have become extremely scarce because of a 75 per cent depreciation of the rupiah, the ensuing failure of local firms and hyperinflation.

The attack on the rupiah was led by Western speculators. They attacked it mainly because Indonesia was near Thailand, whose currency they had already attacked. True, something was rotten in Indonesia's economy, but it had been rotten for years.

The International Monetary Fund fuelled the financial crisis in order to persuade a reluctant Mr Suharto to agree the standard IMF package. This aimed to overcome the staggering income loss from devaluation (not least huge extra interest payments on foreign borrowing) by cutting price subsidies and creat-

ing an instant budget surplus. Suharto was eventually forced to agree an adjusted IMF programme. He slashed subsidies on fuel for cooking and transport and put up electricity prices. This quickly sparked the brutal rioting, murder and destruction of Chinese business, the usual target in bad times.

Yesterday, President Clinton and the rest called for their Indonesian counterpart to open up a dialogue with all elements of society rather than repress disorder. On the spot, Mr Suharto has reversed some of the IMF measures, cutting oil and power prices. The IMF has not yet dispersed all its belated loans, needed to finance imports. Market economists say the IMF must not allow Suharto to get away with this, as it would be a bad precedent for Korea and Thailand, where the poor are suffering almost equal ruin as a result of the speculative wave.

What, pray, do the eight richest nations represented in Birmingham think? Do they think that temporary aid to the poor would be helpful, whether Suharto is in charge or another, and tell the IMF to cough up? Or do they think that horrific programs are a price worth paying to support the IMF's view that deflation is the answer to recession? The latter, it seems.

## Thomson shows retailers the way

What message should the Monetary Policy Committee divine from current intelligence on consumer spending? The magic has fallen out of carpets but the Thomson share issue was massively oversubscribed. Allied Carpets's profit warning, coming after a rash of similar gloomy tidings from furniture and carpet sellers, indicates that consumers have lost the confidence necessary, along with the availability of funds, to invest in big ticket items. But the mass of applications for shares in Thomson Travel was a huge gesture of consumer confidence, since the public was attracted by the prospect of discounted package

holidays rather than a soaraway share price. The MPC can feed both apparently contradictory pieces of information into its debate on interest rates and come no closer to a conclusive answer.

What seems to be happening, however, is that consumers are gradually changing their priorities. Holidays have been climbing closer to the top of the list of what is regarded as essential. Within their normal spending power, consumers have become keener on travel to exotic climes than on the longer lasting delights of a new Axminster or Wilton. And they are not splashing out on fashion fripperies either. Large parts of the high street have found this year hard going, as the number and length of mid-season sales has indicated. Retailers need to woo consumers more adeptly than ever before: Thomson showed how to do it.

## B-eurocracy wins

BUREAUCRATS, don't you love 'em. As expected, France has won a reward for its own extreme generosity in letting someone else have a quick go at running the euro before it becomes a French fief. The unimpetuous state rescue of Credit Lyonnais, breaching EU conditions on all previous rescues, should be waved through this week after Brussels experts amazingly failed to raise objections. This is how the euro will work.

# Top SmithKline executives in internal shake-up

By PAUL DURMAN

SMITHKLINE Beecham has appointed Howard Pien, a 40-year-old American, to be the new head of its pharmaceuticals business as part of a raft of internal promotions.

The changes take place shortly after Jan Leschly, chief executive, has sought to reassure the group's senior management in the aftermath of the aborted £100 billion merger with Glaxo Wellcome.

Mr Pien will be president, pharmaceuticals—a title previously held by Jean-Pierre Garnier, SmithKline

Beecham's chief operating officer.

However, the company said Mr Pien was replacing Jerry Karabelas, who held the lesser title of executive vice-president until he left to join Novartis a few months ago.

It is only six months since Mr Pien's last promotion to the post of president of the North American pharmaceutical operations. As head of the group's most profitable business, he appears well-placed if, as expected, Dr Garnier eventually succeeds Jan

Leschly as SmithKline Beecham's chief executive.

Jack Ziegler, executive vice-president for SB's consumer healthcare business, has been appointed president of the division—another title previously held by Dr Garnier. Mr Pien and Mr Ziegler, who is 52, will continue to report to Dr Garnier.

David Stout, senior vice-president and director of sales and marketing in the US will replace Mr Pien as president of the North American pharmaceuticals business.

At consumer healthcare—which takes in Aquafresh toothpaste, Panadol for pain relief, Contac for cold and the Lucozade and Ribena drinks business—Manfred Scheske has become president of the US operation. Mr Scheske was previously general manager and vice-president with responsibility for consumer healthcare in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

Dr Garnier said: "These changes reflect a continual effort by SB to strengthen the management structure."

SB shares rose 1p to 706p yesterday. They now trade at a 10 per cent discount to the price of 845p struck when merger talks were disclosed. Failure to bring the merger to fruition, and the fading prospects of a resumption of talks between the two companies has convinced investors the shares may not return to their peak in the short term.

Glaxo Wellcome rose 26p to £17.33 yesterday, compared with a high of £19.83 when merger talks were under way.



Chris Wright, left, who made a paper profit of £2 million yesterday, with Philip McDanell, Chrysalis managing director

# Chrysalis shares rise as losses are halved

By CHRIS AVRES

THE death of Frank Sinatra, the veteran singer, yesterday helped shares in Chrysalis, the British media group that owns the North American publishing rights to his most famous anthem, *My Way*, to rise 20p to 765p.

Shares were also boosted by a near halving in pre-tax losses for the six months to February 28 from £1.7 million (before exceptional) to £900,000. The company is now forecast to make a £1 million profit next year.

Sales rose 14 per cent from £52 million to £60 million, while losses per share fell from 5.7p to 3.8p. Chris Wright, the chairman of Chrysalis who owns a 32 per cent stake in the company, made a paper profit of £2 million on yesterday's share gain.

Chrysalis enjoyed most of its success with its television business, which has produced recent shows such as *Clive James Meets Mel Gibson and Midsomer Murders*. The division has also recently sold an Australian soap opera, *Breakers*, to 18 countries.

The company's music publishing business also performed well, with songs such as *Atomic* by Blondie and *Marvellous* by the Lightning Seeds being used in TV commercials by Coca-Cola and Renault respectively.

Optimism was dampened by Echo, the company's fledgling record label, which helped the music division's losses to triple to £1.8 million. Forthcoming albums are expected from bands such as Feeder and Babybird. A dividend will be announced at the end of the year.

Tempus, page 31

# Microsoft and Klein begin anti-trust talks

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

JOEL KLEIN, the Assistant US Attorney General at the Justice Department, yesterday began negotiations with Microsoft lawyers over a settlement of the broad anti-trust lawsuit against the software house. Mr Klein agreed to meet the lawyers after Microsoft decided to delay the launch of Windows 98 only 24 hours before copies of the new computer operating system were to be shipped to manufacturers.

America's second-biggest company will be forced over the weekend to rearrange its biggest product launch in three years. Marketers and technicians have to adjust the release schedule and prepare for a second launch date that could come as early as Monday but may be dragged out for weeks. Microsoft is obliged to release a new operating system to all major manufacturers simultaneously, making a product launch a precarious event even with-

out this week's glitch. Some 90 per cent of the world's personal computers run on a Microsoft operating system. The Windows 98 is said to comprise significant improvements on the ubiquitous Windows 95.

This weekend's negotiations will cover the known areas of contention such as Microsoft's efforts to force manufacturers not to use rival software.

The Justice Department has also presented a new list of demands. After talks with manufacturers, the officials are asking Microsoft to allow its corporate customers to customise its operating systems. At the moment, manufacturers are offered the software on the basis of "take it as it is or leave it". Sales contracts explicitly state that Microsoft logos and configurations that steer users towards other Microsoft products and services may not be removed. The Justice Department believes this is illegal.

# Lady in Leisure to expand

By DOMINIC WALSH

LADY IN LEISURE, the women-only health and fitness club chain listed on the Alternative Investment Market, is believed to be lining up a substantial acquisition.

According to City sources,

the group is in the process of raising funds to buy a privately owned rival called Curves, which operates six clubs in the Midlands. The rumoured £1.5 million-plus purchase price is expected to be funded through a rights issue.

Graham Forrest, joint man-

aging director, said: "When we floated in April last year we said we'd grow from eight to 16 clubs within 16 months. We achieved that in eight months and we now believe we can get to 40 by the millennium."

Muscles flexed, page 30

# Welsh lessons

IAIN EVANS, the chairman of Hyder, the merged Welsh Water and South Wales Electricity, has resigned to spend more time with his other business interests. As the company is one of the biggest and most important in Wales, one must wonder just what could be more pressing for a man named Evans to do. He is a management consultant, in fact he is the E in the consultancy LEK, and it seems the pressures of this high-octane existence mean sleepy old Cardiff has had to go.

Evans has been at Welsh Water since before its privatisation ten years ago, so I suppose he has done his time. But what of his successor, John Robins, chief executive of Guardian Royal Exchange? Evans is of Welsh ancestry, even if his manner brings to mind Surrey more than Swansea. I am told, Robins is

English through and through. Hyder makes much of its Welshness and all documents are bilingual, even if the only place you will hear Welsh spoken in Cardiff is in the classrooms where it is taught compulsorily. The company even runs in-house tuition in the language. I suggest that Hyder shareholders insist Robins takes lessons before he gets the job.

NEVER mind the dyed green grass. Birmingham City Council had the bright idea of putting up eight flagpoles, each flying a different national flag, plus one more for the EU at a traffic island on one of the busiest roads into the city. This was to welcome the G8 leaders to the city and all its charms. On Wednesday night somebody stole five of them.



## Giro moan

GIROBANK, one of Merseyside's biggest employers and now owned by Alliance & Leicester, is threatening to move, perhaps to Dublin, if a big enough financial package cannot be wrung from the local council and bodies that disburse regional aid. This

sort of corporate blackmail is quite legitimate, I suppose, and better Girobank than some Far East carmaker. The likelihood is that the bank will, indeed, stay in Bootle, once Sefton Borough Council and others have come up with the ready. This must be a great comfort to the 2,500 workers at the site, which needs rebuilding. "We've talked to them [the council] about a range of issues, including funding," an A&L spokesman tells me. Nice to see A&L, a body awash with cash, being subsidised by a hard-up northern council.

AN OCCASIONAL visitor to these columns, solicitor Nigel Morris-Cotterill has had a narrow escape. An expert on money-laundering, he and two other solicitors were approached a couple of months ago and offered a two-year overseas assignment creating an in-house law firm at a large, state-owned insurance company. Interviews were

carried out by the government that owned the company. For some reason the Indonesians never got back to them.

## Sour note

A SUDDEN burst of synchronicity from Chris Wright, the bearded Chrysalis tycoon whose appearance a colleague once unkindly likened to one of the Bee Gees. At a City presentation yesterday Wright announced that it was 30 years since he formed his first music venture by signing antique folk-rockers Jethro Tull. Since then, by the by, Chrysalis's profit record has been disastrous. Wright then gave analysts a blast of music from his back catalogue. His choice was the yobbish England World Cup anthem "Three Lions", and so the words to the song echoed around the room: "Thirty years of hurt, never stopped me dreaming."

MARTIN WALLER

TIM04

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The fitness market is shaping up for a strong future, reports **Dominic Walsh**

## Private health clubs start to flex their business muscles

**L**ady in Leisure, the women-only fitness club chain floated on AIM last year, is a classic example of the swath of niche concepts that have burst on to the scene during the boom in private health and fitness clubs of the past few years.

The success of the formula has been reflected in the company's share price, which has doubled since Christmas as overweight women — and those who merely think they are none too trim — have flocked to pay £400 a year to join up. Since it floated 12 months ago it has grown from eight clubs to 16 and industry gossip suggests it is poised to snap up a Midlands rival, adding six more clubs.

One industry analyst attributes the success of the niche operators to a recognition that the market's growth would always be limited so long as clubs continued to have an intimidating atmosphere. He says: "Although part of the success of Lady in Leisure is that it offers a basic fitness facility for a reasonable price, the real key is that it provides a haven for fat ladies who wouldn't be seen dead anywhere near one of the lifestyle clubs. Here they can tackle their cellulite without fear of ridicule."

Graham Forrest, joint managing director, waxes at the description, but admits: "Most of our members come to lose weight and get fit. They come here because they've put on weight over Christmas or because they've booked a holiday in Ibiza and want to look good on the beach. We don't attract the Jane Fondas or the BMW brigade."

Another successful niche player, albeit at the opposite end of the spectrum, is Champneys, which describes itself as the Savoy of the health and fitness world. Although the Champneys name will always be associated with the renowned health spa in Tring, Hertfordshire, which is just concluding a £7 million revamp, it is also reinventing itself as an exclusive international chain of spas targeting the world's top cities.

Its London club, Champneys Piccadilly, which is undergoing a £1.5 million refit, is reinforcing its exclusivity by cutting member numbers from 2,000 to 1,300 and raising the annual fee from £1,500 to £2,500. The company has a development site in Brussels and is hoping to establish a presence in Paris, Frankfurt, Milan and Barcelona as well as developing a second club in London.

Viscount Thurso, the Champneys chief executive and Liberal Democrat peer famed for having shed three stones since he



Lady in Leisure club members work out while Nick Irens, left, chief executive of Vardon, and David Hudd, chairman, have strengthened their fitness operation



took the helm three years ago, believes that while a slowdown in the health and fitness market is inevitable after a decade of growth, the trend towards niche concepts and a growing professionalism among the quoted operators should ensure a solid future. "The moment you have shareholders to answer to, you have to get your act together," he says, no doubt mindful of his own group's flotation plans within the next three years.

Many of the bigger public companies are going down the road of differentiating their offers. For example, Granada, which inherited a substantial health and fitness presence from its takeover of Forte, has embarked on a four-pronged

development plan under the brands Fitness for Industry (FFI), Forte Spa, Spirit and Go Fitness Plus. Peter Nixon, a business development manager with Granada's health and fitness arm, says: "Granada see health and fitness as a sector with big potential for growth. They want a portfolio of brands that cover the whole spectrum of markets."

FFI is a corporate fitness provider, operating fitness facilities for likes of the BBC, British Aerospace and the House of Commons; Forte Spa takes in around 40 clubs at Forte Posthouse hotels; Spirit is its more upmarket lifestyle brand, which will be developed in a range of hotel and standalone locations;

and Go Fitness Plus is a new gym-only concept aimed at the style-conscious under-40s. The group is to invest £2.5 million in Go Fitness and is looking for sites in London, Manchester, Nottingham, Liverpool and Birmingham.

Others, such as Greenalls and Whitbread, are using the skills gained developing large edge-of-town leisure complexes as the basis for a move into standalone health and fitness clubs. Greenalls has secured a number of city centre sites for a Village Leisure-style operation, while Whitbread, which paid £200 million for the tennis-based David Lloyd Leisure chain in 1995, is testing smaller David Lloyd units without tennis facilities. In

London, it also uses the Curzons Fitness Club brand. Meanwhile, Scottish & Newcastle has linked up with David Lloyd in his current guise as chairman of Next Generation Clubs, taking a 14.9 per cent stake in the fledgling business as it prepares to spend £100 million building chains in the UK and Australia.

The boom in the sector has been avidly embraced by some of the UK's best-known quoted hotel and leisure operators, the acquisition of LivingWell in May 1996 establishing Stakis as a big player. Meanwhile, Vardon, which operates the London Dungeon and a string of sea life centres, recently sold its bingo operation and is putting

heavy investment into health and fitness after its acquisition of Archer Leisure two years ago. The division, which also runs clubs for local authorities, now accounts for more than half Vardon's total profits.

A similar transformation is taking place at First Leisure, where Michael Grade has quit bingo and put a "for sale" sign over its resorts division. Health and fitness has become one of its three core divisions after the acquisition of the Royal County of Berkshire Racquets & Health Club in 1994 and the Riverside and Espree clubs in spring last year. In a recent research note, Sarah Ellis, leisure analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort

Benson, says: "The attractiveness of First Leisure's three formats, the success it has achieved so far, its strong market position and the returns that can be generated in this market, lead us to conclude that this division should become a star performer by the end of the century."

Another recent entrant to the fray is Richard Branson's Virgin Group, which is to develop 50,000 sq ft sites under the Virgin Active brand. The first opening in its £50 million development plan is likely to be in Preston, Lancashire, with a second in Leeds. With the big boys stepping up the pace, further consolidation of what has been a fragmented market seems inevitable. Some of the better-quality independents may view the boom as an opportunity to cash in their chips, while most observers believe some of the recent stock market debutants such as Holmes Place and AIM-listed Dragons Health Clubs and Fitness First could be in a position to fetch substantial premiums — unless they themselves turn predator.

The success of the sector, allied to the scramble for sites, is inevitably driving up rents, which have traditionally been among the lowest in the leisure field. But as Peter Gwilliam, a chartered surveyor specialising in leisure property, points out, this also means health and fitness operators are being taken more seriously. "You're now seeing decent covenants offering attractive rents and developers and landlords are increasingly looking at this sector," he says. Given that almost 50 per cent of the British population was classified as overweight or obese in a recent government study, it would appear that the boom still has legs. Add to that the growth in disposable income and the fact that we tend to live longer, and the omens look good.

According to Mintel's recent report, *Health and Fitness Clubs*, the market was worth £972 million last year, a massive 58 per cent up on 1992 figures. It estimates there to be almost two million full members of private clubs, some 25 per cent higher than five years ago, while the number of clubs has risen by 12 per cent to around 2,200 over the same period. But while there appears to be little sign of a significant slowdown, Mintel gives warning that a third of consumers now believe the majority of memberships to be overpriced. "This indicates cynicism about whether consumers are receiving value for money," it says.

FTSE in reit  
bank sector is

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STOCK MARKET



ROBERT COLE

FTSE in retreat again as bank sector is pummelled

IN THE battle for control of the direction of the London stock market the bears ended the week with the upper hand. Shares drifted lower yesterday for the fourth day in a row.

Banks led the retreat, and with such a large influence on the direction of the FTSE 100, they were largely responsible for the decline. The benchmark index of the 100 biggest quoted companies closed down 30.7 at 5,917.8. It could have been worse: in mid-afternoon the FTSE 100 was off 82 points at 5,866.5.

On Monday the FTSE scored good gains and while yesterday's close was at a better level than it had been during the day there was still a net loss on the week of about 50 points.

The expiry of the May series of options written on the FTSE 100 index did not help affairs but the Office of Fair Trading was held up as the chief culprit responsible for the damage. John Bridgeman, the OFT Director-General, is to investigate Northern Rock, the former building society, for allegations that it has treated savers unfairly. The news knocked 8.5 per cent off the value of Northern shares and other retail banks were caught in the backlash of fear that the investigation would be widened.

Northern Rock closed down 6 1/2p at 553p. Abbey National was off 3 1/2p at £10.47. Alliance & Leicester dropped 20p to 800p. Bank of Scotland was 2 1/2p lower at 690p, and Lloyds TSB suffered 3 1/2p to finish at 861p. Halifax fell 1 1/2p to 776 1/2p and Woolwich fell 6 1/2p to 339 1/2p.

Sustained concern about the riots in Indonesia impacted Standard Chartered and HSBC again. Worries about Barclays' exposure to the troubled region had investors scurrying for cover. HSBC, which got off relatively lightly earlier in the week, lost 2 1/2p to close at £16.78. Standard was 6p down at 800p, and Barclays - struck with a double whammy after the OFT news - was 2 1/2p worse off at £17.23.

Billiton, the mining group, was down at heel. The word on the streets was that a big South African investor was offloading at 15 1/2p. In the market the shares dipped 1 1/2p to 166 1/2p. The muted reaction was put down to relief that the large seller seemed to be exiting, and that the stage is cleared for upward progress. On that point parallels



Rolf Borjesson saw Rexam rise 10p, helped by City whispers

could be drawn between Billiton and Rexam, the paper and packaging group where Rolf Borjesson is chief executive. Rexam was back in favour as its stock overhang situation was resolved earlier in the week when a big sell order in its stock was completed. Whispers of a bit of corporate activity, possibly an acquisition, added to the excitement.

Next, the fashion retailer, rounded off a poor week having to swallow another 15 1/2p fall. It finished at 48 1/2p. In March the stock was up at 83 1/2p, but continuing pessimism over high street trade undermined the shares. On recent analysts' visits, the company's finance director apparently had little to say by way of assurance.

Rexam rose 10p to 310p yesterday, building on a 10 1/2p gain on Thursday.

BAA, the airports operator, also continued on an upward trend on Thursday when it was 10 1/2p better at 650 1/2p.

Nycomed Amersham, the medical consumables supplier, was another one to defy the bearish trend. John Odjfield, the chairman, spoke confidently at the firm's annual shareholder meeting and the

shares accelerated 60p - nearly 3 per cent - forward to £21.30. Nycomed was also on the right end of a buy recommendation from Salomon Smith Barney, the broker.

Ladbrokes, the betting shops and hotels group, continued to attract attention for no particular reason other than takeover/break-up stories have been around for long

Horace Clarkson, the shipbroker, rose 13p to 130 1/2p as the implications of the bid approach from Charles Taylor filtered through. Charles Taylor has said it will pay at least 130p if it gets agreement, but the market was more impressed by noises made by Clarkson on how it would try to enhance shareholder value independently.

Mentmore Abbey, the storage group, nudged 1/2p ahead to 78p. But it is a new 16-months high and fans hope that the landmark is a sign that Mentmore's troubled past can be well and truly consigned to history.

In the Alternative Investment Market International Greetings, the card and wrapping paper company, skipped up 25p to 537 1/2p.

GILT-EDGED: Trading was nervous. Last Wednesday's news that average wages were increasing faster than expected continued to overshadow the market in government bonds. Fears are that retail sales figures - out next Tuesday - will do little to lessen the arguments supporting interest rate stringency.

Shorter-dated gilts held up better than long. The nominal £100 bond paying fixed interest of 7 per cent maturing in 2002 fell in price from £102 1/2 to £102 1/4. The Treasury 8 1/2 per cent 2021 was more than 1/2p down at £126 1/2 from £126 1/4.

NEW YORK: Shares were little changed in morning trading despite the chaos in Indonesia casting a shadow over the market. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 4.23 at 9,168.00.

that dealers expect their prophecies to become self-fulfilling. There was decent volume and the share rose 15 1/2p to 357 1/2p.

Admiral was the favourite in the well-hyped information technology sector. The computer consultant rose 9 per cent, or 100p, to £12.07 1/2, making it one of the day's biggest climbers.

Elsewhere among the intouchs Micro Focus built on its remarkable gains of

Wednesday and Thursday to score another 30p rise. It closed at 67 1/2p. Misys was another gainer, adding 45p to find 312 1/2p. Much more and it will start looking like a possible candidate for the FTSE 100.

Celt Telecom, the phone network company, carried on its relentless upward march. It rose another 14 1/2p to get to £20.85, 66 1/2p up on the week.

Cup Final fever spread to Manchester United, although as its team is going nowhere near the hallowed Wembley turf today, quiet why the shares benefited was a bit of a mystery. It trotted on to 138p from 130 1/2p. Newcastle United did rather less well, adding 1/2p, to close at 90p. The Toon will be hoping it is not an omen.

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MAJOR INDICES

Table with columns for location (New York, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London) and index values.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues for various companies like AB Airlines, Aberdeen Cable, Ambibus Pub Co, etc.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table listing rights issues for companies like Ask Central, Avocet Mining, etc.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table listing major changes for companies like Network Tech, CMC, etc.

TEMPUS

Taking a carpeting

ANY DOUBTS that last year's home furnishings mini-boom is over have to be put aside after the profit warning from Allied Carpets yesterday. On the face of it, the only surprising thing is that the warning comes two months after Carpetright, MFI and DFS first let on that sales were not going well.

Allied itself seems short of explanations for the timing: why, after a good January, February and most of March, sales fell off a cliff. To go from 11 per cent like-for-like growth in January to 10 per cent decline since Easter is quite something.

As DFS has already suggested, one reason Easter was so bad was the poor weather. But even with the return of the sunshine, sales have remained low and Allied is expecting its like-for-likes to be 5-10 per cent down as it moves into its next financial year.

Chrysalis THE City must have been stifling years of frustration last year when Sir George Martin, the former Beatles producer, decided to help the villagers of Monserrat instead of releasing his album in time for Christmas.

This is pretty much par for the course with Chrysalis, whose habitual lack of profits has failed to stop the rise in its share price. On the day Frank Sinatra died, the stock climbed another 20p to 765p, causing critics to point out that Chrysalis owns the publishing rights to My Way in North America.

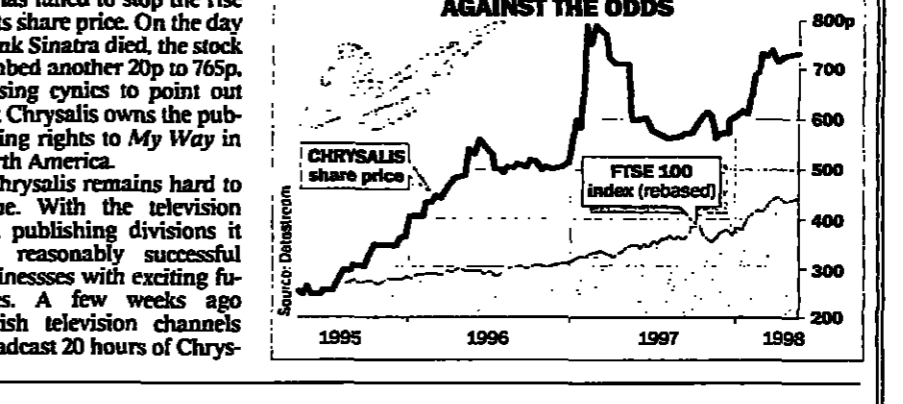
Chrysalis remains hard to value. With the television and publishing divisions it has reasonably successful businesses with exciting futures. A few weeks ago British television channels broadcast 20 hours of Chry-

There is something in the arguments that consumers have seen mortgage rates rise, are worried about a possible recession and have less overtime pay to splash about. However, it is worth noting that John Lewis yesterday reported that its machine-made carpet sales have risen 12.7 per cent in the past 14 weeks. Allied argues that business in the North, where John Lewis has fewer stores, is particularly bad.

The problem with this response is that it highlights Allied's exposure to the most difficult part of the market. Allied is adamant that its margins have survived the sales drop, and says it is not planning discounts. But if the slump in sales drags on, it will have to look at cutting costs and temping in the customers with keener prices. Not an attractive prospect.

hage money. Against the odds, acts such as Babybird and Sir George Martin have proved strong sellers, but the label does not own enough talent to protect itself against difficult markets. The same goes for the fledgling radio business.

Given the risks and the lack of earnings, the shares are only for enthusiasts.



Stoves A SECOND DOSE of trouble yesterday from the household furnishings sector came from Stoves, a British manufacturing success story that has found the stock market hard going over the last year or so.

The cooker maker blames its woes on the strength of sterling, which has made it easier for its European rivals to offer competitive prices. Most had been happy to take improved margins but in March Siemens' Neff oven business cut prices to take a bigger share of mid- and upper-market business.

John Crathorne, Stoves' chief executive, says the company started to recover lost ground in April but by then the damage was done: profits for the year to the end of May will be about £5.2 million, some £1.3 million adrift of City forecasts. The shares plunged 4 1/2p to 158 1/2p, less than half of last year's peak. Stoves does not blame the

point out, it represents nearly one times turnover and 13 times historic earnings, which is a fairly good rating in the security sector. But a recent circular from Butterfield Securities estimates that turnover at Capitol will rise nearly 50 per cent this year while profits will more than double. On that basis 175p is a steal, particularly when the shares stood at 170p just over a year ago.

This fact may not have escaped the Cheam team, which consists of three of Capitol's directors with backing from Phoenix Ventures. The fact is that tougher regulation of manged guarding means that there are increased barriers to entry and that the established players in this market are set to enjoy higher margins. With the likes of Rentokil Initial keen to expand in the sector, investors will live to regret accepting this inadequate offer.

FOR THOSE who thought the most interesting thing about Cheam was that Tony Hancock used to live there, the £21.5 million offer for Capitol Group from a company called Cheam must be quite an exciting event. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of Cheam's offer. The agreed deal for the security services business is priced at 175p, a premium of more than 30 per cent to Capitol's share price before the bid. As Cheam is keen to

EDITED BY PAUL DURMAN

COMMODITIES

Table with columns for commodity type (LIFE, CRUDE OILS, RUBBER, etc.) and price changes.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table listing London financial futures for Long Gilt, German Gov Bond, etc.

DOLLAR RATES

Table listing dollar rates for various currencies like Australia, Belgium, Canada, etc.

WALL STREET

Table listing Wall Street market data for various companies and indices.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table listing money rates for various banks and currencies.

LIFE OPTIONS

Table listing life insurance options with columns for policy type and price.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGES

Table listing London metal exchange rates for various metals like Gold, Silver, etc.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table listing European money deposit rates for various currencies and terms.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Table listing gold and precious metal prices and market data.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table listing sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies.

NEWS

World mourns singer of the century

Admirers on every continent mourned Frank Sinatra, hoping that his death in Beverly Hills would not prompt a flare-up in the long dispute among his heirs over his vast fortune, amassed during half a century as an icon of American culture.

Blair urges India to sign treaty

Tony Blair made a strong appeal to the Indian Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, to avert a full-scale nuclear arms race in South Asia by signing an international treaty that would prevent fresh tests.

Clinton warns IRA

President Clinton warned the IRA that they would become outcasts if they ever returned to violence. The move came as a loyalist force urged people to vote no in the referendum.

On the road to fame

The first batch of students leaves Britain's only university devoted to showbusiness to find fame in a fickle industry.

Moving evidence

Evidence by the best friend of murdered black teenager Stephen Lawrence proved too much for his father Neville Lawrence.

Striker to miss Cup

Dennis Bergkamp will not play in the FA Cup Final after failing a fitness test.

IRA terrorist chief

Thomas "Slab" Murphy was branded a commander of IRA operations in Northern Ireland with absolute power.

Funerals' inquiry

The Office of Fair Trading launched an inquiry into overcharging and hard-selling in Britain's funeral industry.

Poet's 'true colours'

Besides his addiction to opium, Samuel Taylor Coleridge's dream state may have been influenced by vivid paint in his home.

Suharto's aura

So powerful is the presence of Suharto that within hours of his return everything was back to near normality.

£400,000 damages

A woman who had unnecessary surgery after doctors wrongly told her that her unborn baby was dead settled her damages action for £400,000.

Wrecker Paisley

Rev Ian Paisley is tearing apart Unionist support for the Ulster agreement.

Sharks cause stir off Cornwall

The arrival of about 500 sharks off Cornwall had even the hoariest fishermen fleeing for port. Marine scientists admitted they were baffled by their return.



Traders Dean Ricklow and Rebekah Groot bask in the sun on the roof garden atop the London International Financial Futures Exchange building

Heritage battle: Conservationists are battling against time to save the great sculptor Antonio Canova's studio which his Greek owners want to turn into a jeans shop or car showroom... Page 9
No end of a struggle: Blair now realises that Good Friday was only the end of a phase in the struggle and not the end of the struggle itself... Page 23
Simon Jenkins: The output of a number of countries in the Far East turned men mad with greed and admiration... Page 22
Rock rap: The OFT is investigating Northern Rock after complaints... Page 27
Tennis: Anna Kournikova beat Martina Hingis, the world No 1, in the battle of the young guns... Page 47

SECTIONS

the times

Boot boy: Alan Shearer talks tough... Page 18
Voodoo Britain: Clubland rocks to Haitian sound... Page 30
Empire lines: Behind the mask of Japanese royalty... Page 36
Interiors: Secrets of the boudoir... Page 50

METRO

The big interview: Chumbawamba... Page 6
Music: New albums and charts... Pages 12-13
Books: The clam-like David Mamet loosens his tongue... Page 16
Opera: A 3-D digital spectacle... Page 14
Listings... Pages 26-43

WEEKEND

Sky terror: Two British survivors recall their hijack ordeal... Page 1
Flower show: Highgrove's secrets come to Chelsea... Page 3
Field sport: Has the chase gone too far?... Page 19
Travel: The Alps: The Vatican: Baltic cruise: Ghana: Australia... Pages 27-35

Vision

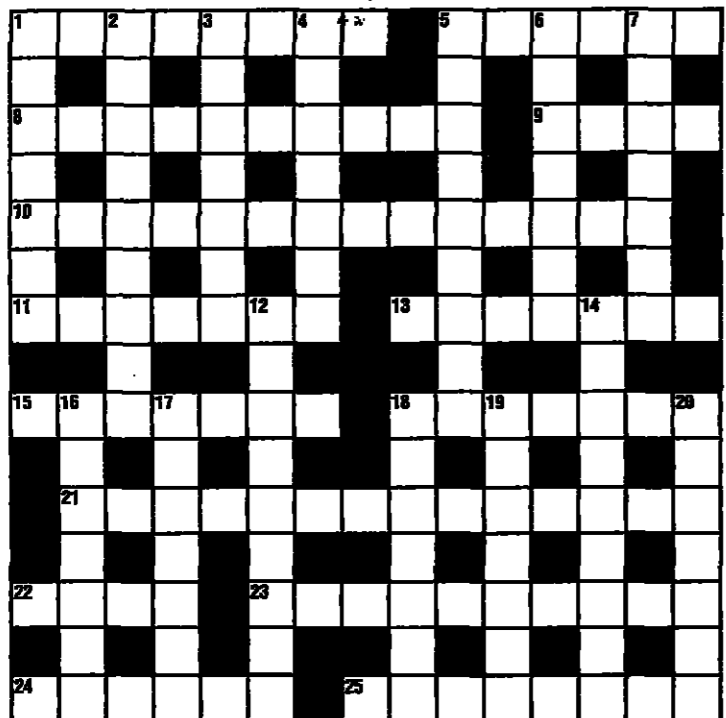
Seven-day listing of radio and 40 TV channels

Wine four tickets to the World Cup

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,793

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



ACROSS
1 Its majority shareholder gets a desirable opportunity (8).
5 Ominously appear, in good year, to become depressed (6).
8 A sandwich? Hardly! (6,4).
9 Box, for example, that's made of wood (4).
10 But for friend, I'd get involved in illicit pleasure (9,5).
11 Supply the flower-girl outside (7).
12 Work out how to maintain attack (4,3).
15 Himalayan creature less deadly when beheaded? (3,4).
18 Scrap with chaps in extra time (7).
21 Former PM blunt where military exercises are involved (9,5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20787
S A F A I R P A R K O S L O
W A I N O E V
A R T I C U L A T E G A M E
Y T H R E O S C R
W E S T S T R I K E O U T
W S E T I A O H
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S C E N A R I O G A M E
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O L E E E E L N
P E E R T E R R O R I S E D

Latest Road and Weather conditions

Table with road and weather conditions for various regions like UK, Midlands, and South East.

Weather by Fax

Table listing weather forecasts for various locations like London, Manchester, and Birmingham.

World City Weather

Table showing weather forecasts for major world cities like New York, Tokyo, and Sydney.

AA Car reports by fax

Text providing information about car reports and services.

HOURE OF DARKNESS

Table showing sunrise and sunset times for various locations.

HIGH TIDES

Table listing high tide times for various coastal locations.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Text providing information about highest and lowest temperatures.

FORECAST

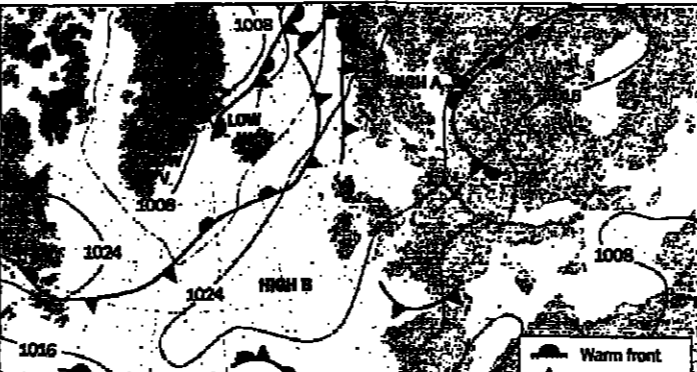
General: England and Wales will be pleasantly warm and quite sunny, although there will be a cool breeze and some patchy low cloud near North Sea coasts.

AROUND AND ABOUT AIR TEMPERATURE

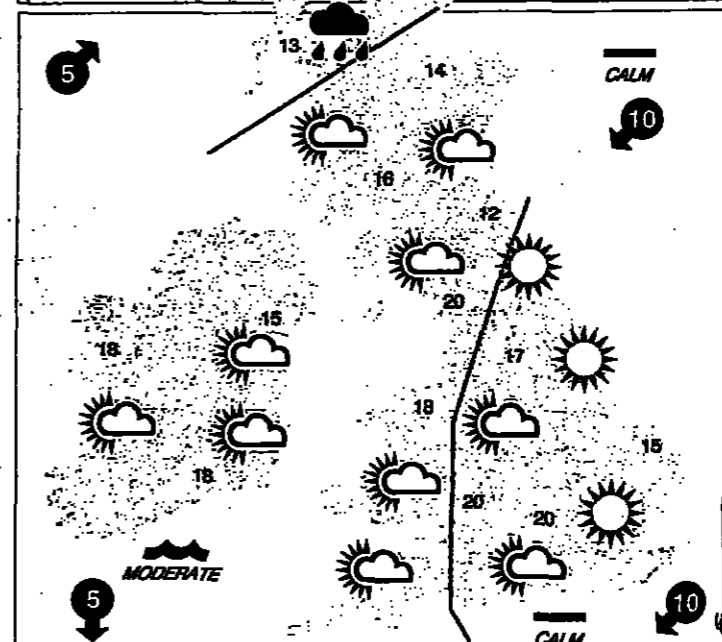
Table showing air temperatures for various cities and regions.

ABROAD

Table showing weather forecasts for various international locations.



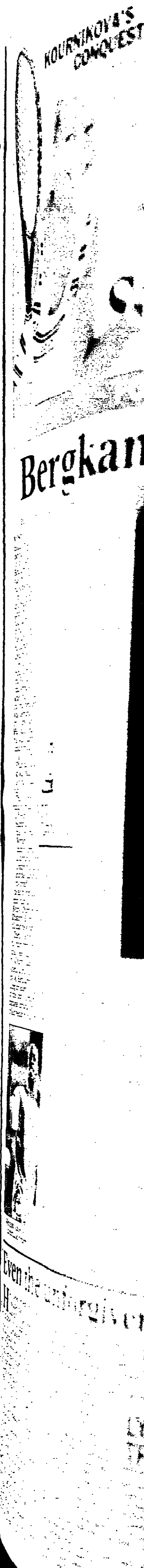
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Russian revolution engulfs Hingis  
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### DANNY BAKER

New plans for Formula One  
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### ONE DAY AT A TIME

Hollioake goes back to basics  
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### WEEKEND MONEY

HOW TO INVEST IN FOOTBALL  
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WHY MEN HATE TRAFFIC WARDENS  
PAGE 49

# THE TIMES SATURDAY SPORT 14 PAGES

MAY 16 1998

## FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR FAILS FITNESS TEST

# Bergkamp blurs visions of double

By OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

MOST of the players had talked inside in the shade, behind tables, in corners, under lights. But Dennis Bergkamp wanted to go outside into the sunshine. He pulled his chair up behind one of the white tables on the patio and began to speak in his gentle, monotone whisper. He said that he so wanted to play in the FA Cup Final against Newcastle United today that he had hardly begun to think about the World Cup.

He said that he had found it hard watching Arsenal clinch the FA Carling Premiership title sitting in a tracksuit. He knew that he had missed out on one denouement and he was desperate not to miss out on another. He said that he was happy and hopeful. It was only Thursday and it was clear he felt he would play.

That evening, he made a fleeting appearance at the Football Writers Association's annual dinner at a hotel in central London to collect his Footballer of the Year award. He spoke only briefly, of how honoured he felt to join the company of men such as Dave Mackay, Bobby Charlton and Kenny Dalglish. Everyone there, too, felt that he would play.

Then, yesterday morning, the hamstring that he tore three weeks ago against Derby County dealt him and Arsenal a cruel double whammy. As Bergkamp was undergoing an extensive fitness test at the club's London Colney training ground, the Dutch striker began to feel some pain

in the affected area and was forced to admit defeat.

Almost immediately, Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, who had been pessimistic about his leading striker's role from the start, authorised the issuing of a statement from Highbury that confirmed the worst fears of the team's supporters. It almost seemed harder to bear because of the bleakness of the message: "Dennis Bergkamp will not be taking part in tomorrow's FA Cup Final," it read.

Later, Wenger elaborated. "Of course we are very disappointed that Dennis cannot participate tomorrow," he said, "but we have a strong squad of players and we are still perfectly capable of winning the match. Dennis had his final test this morning and it was a severe one, as it had to be, but there was pain in his leg. We knew before the test was over that it was no good for him. I don't think it will be too much longer before he does recover fully and I cannot see any doubt over his ability to be able to play in the World Cup for Holland. But we have won big matches before without him on more than a few occasions so we will stay very positive and just try to do it again."

Bergkamp himself did not try to hide his feelings. "I'm very disappointed because as a boy I always wanted to play in it," he said. "I dreamt about it. It's the best match of the year. I thought I was going to be fit. That makes it even more difficult to bear. I'm a player who wants to win. I do not only want to be remembered as a talented player, but one who helps his team to win trophies."

On Thursday, as Bergkamp sat in the sun, club officials had searched the shadows for Ian Wright. He was having a shy day, constrained perhaps by his contract with a national newspaper. Everybody had gone by the time he emerged furiously from a sauna, but this afternoon, in front of the black and white and red and white hordes, he will almost certainly be back in the limelight he craves.

Out of the first team since January with a series of injuries, Wright reappeared as a substitute for the title celebra-

tion against Everton and then started Arsenal's last two games of the league season, away to Liverpool and Aston Villa. It would be typical of his flair for the melodramatic were he to score today and equal Ian Rush's record of five goals scored in FA Cup Finals.

Apart from the absence of Bergkamp, Arsenal will be at full strength. On paper, with Marc Overmars running into the wide open spaces where he once embarrassed Des Walker, they should be too strong for a Newcastle side shorn of confidence by a season in which they flirted with relegation. Even in the Cup, Dalglish's side only had to negotiate their way past Everton, Stevenage Borough, Tranmere Rovers, Barnsley and Sheffield United to reach the final. Arsenal will represent their first top-class test.

Trying to win the competition for the first time since 1955, the majority of their hopes will rest on the broad but overburdened shoulders

of Alan Shearer. The England captain, who has been the subject of a torrent of criticism in the last few months of the season, may have been cleared of misconduct, but he will still

be playing with a point to prove. If much attention is bound to focus on the titanic midfield battle between David Batty and Patrick Vieira, Shearer's

duel with Tony Adams, the Arsenal captain, will also be crucial. If Shearer appears to have been losing his cool recently, the man who will be marking him seems to grow more serene with every day.

He talked about his new passion for the piano and how he loved it because he did not have to be good at it. "When you give so much of yourself to your job, things can get too intense," Adams said. "You need to be able to do something where you can cock it up and not worry about it. I have never played in front of anybody else and I never will. It is just for me. I get a lot of self-worth out of it."

Before he sidled away, he cautioned against too much hypothesising. "Reality is us going out on the training pitch every day," he said. "We can get our minds right and nothing can affect us, and then we can go out and do our stuff. That is real for me. We have to concentrate on that. We have to seize the day."

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Shearer's goal...Magazine



Wright: stage set for dramatic return



Bergkamp limps out of Arsenal's match against Derby County, out of the team that clinched the championship and now out of the FA Cup Final

## Even the unforgiven keep faith in Hoddle

He's announced the squad! Hoddle has announced the squad! Team practice at second division Middleton City was just due to start when the news broke.

A murmur of excitement fizzed around the dressing-room as the list was passed from hand to hand. Each man scanned it and passed it on. "Flowers, Southgate, Campbell, Ince..." And then each voice in turn trailed away, as if to say "oh bugger".

"Who'll tell Gerald?" Gosse, the balding, twice-capped goalkeeper, said when the list finally reached him.

"Not me," Meredith said. "Don't look at me, either." Gissing added. "I always get the rotten jobs."

Only young Swinburne, recently assigned from Plumey, didn't understand. Tell Gerald what, exactly? He took the list and studied it for anything with the slightest bearing on Du Maurier, Middleton's cheer centre Maurier, Middleton's cheer centre Maurier, Middleton's cheer centre Maurier. "What's this got to do with Gerald?" he asked. "I mean, he surely

doesn't think he'll be picked for England?" At which his letter-boxes made their mouths into bootlaces and continued tying their bootlaces.

Du Maurier had been preparing for his call-up all his professional life. Consistently not picked for England in friendlies, or European qualifying matches, or the B team, or the Under-21s (he was 32), he still maintained an impressively positive attitude. Just a couple of weeks ago, he had sent Hoddle a postcard that read: "You don't have to be psychic to know I'm your man!" which had struck exactly the right note of jokey familiarity, he thought. "Alan Shearer's a cheat, if you don't mind me saying so!" he had added in pencil as an afterthought.

Hoddle had picked him once. In their teens, it was. A regional final, Hoddle had appointed him to take a penalty and he had shot it like a bullet.

As he said afterwards, it was hardly his fault that when the ball ricocheted smartly off the post it had knocked Hoddle unconscious. It was hardly his fault, either, that when one of his tackles gave away a free kick, it had led to the opposition's winning goal.

As he had said to Hoddle on that fateful day: "Winning isn't everything, Glenn. You should take a wider view." To which Hoddle had said: "I will never forgive you for missing that penalty and I'll remember your name for as long as I live." Du Maurier chuckled at the memory. The rash things you say when you're young!

Since then, their relationship had been cordial, if one-sided. Since Hoddle became England coach, Du Maurier had written to him, sent him wedding anniversary cards (a really lovely one this year) and occasionally turned up at his house. Meanwhile,

his career at Middleton City might not be the very best showcase for his talents, but he reckoned Hoddle was a fair man who would understand. That business with the court order, for example, Hoddle had come out of the house to tell him about it, when he was camped outside one night. He didn't just apply for it without saying.

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"See for yourself. I'm sorry."

Du Maurier wasn't prepared for this. A tear trickled down his face but, as he read the list, he suddenly brightened. "But this isn't the squad for France."

"Well, no."

Du Maurier smiled. "How do you say 'oh ye of little faith' in French. I wonder? Wait and see, mate. Just wait and see."

### LYNNE TRUSS

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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

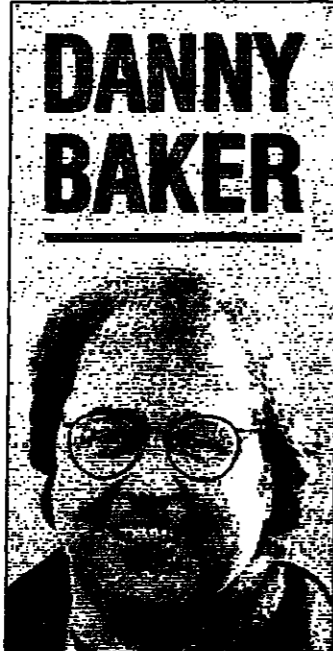
# Parable from the burning bush

No sooner had Chelsea once again proved what a stropky bunch of swots and weasels they are by misunderstanding the joke and blowing the whistle on battling old Bolton's Premiership future — thus embarrassing even their own supporters — than they got stuck into their favourite training activity: bellyaching that the pitch on which they were to play VTB Stuttgart in the Cup Winners' Cup final was too green or too far from the shops or some such rot.

Really, what must Europe think of us? That Chelsea eventually won this tournament can bring nobody any joy. Along the way things were too cold for them, or too hot, or too bumpy or too busy until I suspect ultimately other clubs conspired to give Chelsea the damn thing as one might give a spoilt child a dummy or a bag of chips.

This will not be the first time I have had to haul in this soccer wing of Lord Snooty and his Pals and remind them that, in the real world, football is played in far more adverse conditions than among a few flakes of snow or on a surface that might cause the bubble in a spirit level to hang marginally left of true centre.

Indeed, a letter I received a few weeks back tells of soccer played in just about the most extreme conditions imaginable. In 100-degree heat. And at gunpoint. Do I have your attention now, Ken? The letter comes from a Mr Jay Schitto and is so magnificent that anyone who giggles at his name does not deserve to experience its full drama. The story takes place in rural Australia where Mr S works as a ranger.



**DANNY BAKER**

"The school at Wiluna has only one football and the kids use it for Aussie Rules, basketball, volleyball and football. A local nuisance, Kepito, an Aborigine alcoholic, was arrested for breaking into the school and stealing the television set and the football. I, being the local authority, had to escort Kepito to the nearest courthouse at Geraldton, so, with his handcuffed to my seat belt, we set off on the 600-mile journey. After a few hours I felt a bit sorry for the prisoner and released his handcuffs.

"Big mistake. Travelling at sixty over the rough desert, Kepito grabbed the ball from behind his seat, opened the door and rolled out. I slammed on the brakes.

"I approached him cautiously, then kicked the gun out of his hand. He was stone dead. There is no punishment I'm afraid, except to say I think he died a happy man, playing with his stolen football. Yours, Jay Schitto, Wiluna, Western Australia."

I know, I know it has "Short Film" written all over it. More importantly it provides me with the weapon I have been seeking to take the starch out of poker-faced, puffed-up Ken Bates. The next time he seeks to defend his foppish wiling gaggle of utterly-utterly's by attacking the burning torch of truth that is this column, I shall infiltrate his Port Merion-style Holiday Village soccer park and, under cover of night, set to work with the weed-killer. Then, as daylight dawns upon his garish stadium, one word will be righteously burned into the very pitch itself... Moolangot!

□ Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday at 11.30am and 5.30pm.

bringing the vehicle to a halt and jumped out half expecting Kepito to be a pile of broken bones at the roadside. In fact he was a quarter of a mile behind, running away and kicking the football in front of him. Like an idiot, instead of getting back in the car and going after him, I set off in pursuit on foot. Now being 19 stone and in 100-degree heat I soon slowed down and for a moment lost track of him. However, seeing as the only features in the vicinity were two Bulabo bushes about 800 yards ahead I had a fair idea where he was.

"As I got closer to the bushes I could smell him — the heat brought the alcohol in him to a distinctive perfume — but could not see him. Then I felt something tug at my belt. I spun around and there was Kepito with my gun in one hand and the football in the other. Although he had not spoken one word in our trip from Wiluna it became apparent that we were now playing by his rules. He pointed the gun at my face, grinned like a madman and said but one word: 'Maradona'. This trigger-happy alcoholic absconder wanted to play football, he had my gun, what was there to argue about?

"For the next three hours, using the Bulabo bushes as goalposts, I had to act as goalkeeper while he took pot shots at me. If I made a save he would shout 'moolangot' and point the gun at me.

"As you can imagine, after three hours of this I was absolutely at the limit of exhaustion and decided, a bit late perhaps, that some psychology might get me out of this hell. 'Hey Maradona,' I shouted, 'I think you deserve a drink. I have some beer in the car!' At which point, he nodded, took one last shot... and collapsed on the ground.

"I approached him cautiously, then kicked the gun out of his hand. He was stone dead. There is no punishment I'm afraid, except to say I think he died a happy man, playing with his stolen football. Yours, Jay Schitto, Wiluna, Western Australia."



The wit, wisdom and philosophies of the great Gascoigne are not to be missed on Monday

**AN ANNOUNCEMENT:** There's a line in Lionel Jeffries' flawless film *The Railway Children* where the mother, making ends meet by writing children's books, turns to the children and says: "You poor dears, I haven't an idea in my head for a story, so I'm afraid there won't be buns on the table at teatime for quite a while."

I am rather afraid that I have a similar message for you all this week. I have spent the past 24 hours with Paul Gascoigne giving him the sort of top-level grilling that might draw a low whistle from the spirit of Mathew Hopkins. The results of the sessions are to be unveiled — probably very quietly — in this newspaper on Monday and a right dizzying digest it is, too.

Consequently, however, the period I usually spend considering what provoking and angular strokes I can bring to the Saturday canvas was spent nervously checking to see if the little spoons on my tape recorder were actually turning round, thus capturing The Great Man's outpourings on such subjects as ultimate World Cup glory, the search for extraterrestrial life and the correct and proper time to shave a Pyrenean mountain dog.

So if the column this week comes across as extra flaky, it's not just that my head is more than usually empty but I am also softening you up for a real onslaught of tangential sports reporting first thing on Monday. I promise you, then, it will be buns all round.

## Ireland scores famous victory over Germans

**FALSE ALARM.** I called time too early on our grand That's Too Elaborate A Name For A Simple Football Team Competition. Last week I announced the winner to be the 64-lettered unpronounceable

German team, but I am happy to announce that this is one football honour that the cocky Germans have celebrated too soon.

For, thanks to John Craddock in Dublin, we can luxuriate in the unwieldy but bowdler triumph that is University College Dublin, The National University of Ireland, Dublin, Association Football Club. Eighty-two letters and no passes! (I have no idea what that means but it has a certain flourish to it).

## Here's the key to a lively future for F1

**IN THE** first of these columns, I put forward an idea to bring back the sparkle to solidified old Formula One — arrange for the last lap to be on foot. After all this time, I have finally received a reply to the letter outlining this plan, which I have faxed daily to the sport's governing body for almost a year.

While it appears that it is taking my thought on board, the presence of three exclamation marks after the claim suggests that it may not be in earnest.

Therefore, I have come up with another way that could rescue this petrified pastime. Although, admittedly, I know very little about grand prix racing, it does seem to be that the fake race they hold the day before the real race to see who gets to go where on the grid

is both pointless and the source of the spectacle's atrophy.

Might it not inject a little much-needed improvement if all the cars were put in a straight line and the ignition keys tossed into a big red plastic bucket. Then, on a klaxon blast, drivers — who until now have been held behind some kind of rope — would have to scramble to grab a set of keys and then try to match them up with the correct vehicle.

Whatever keys you get — that's your car. I have a similar plan involving those numbered tickets you take when queuing at a Tesco deli counter and the jockeys in the Grand National, but let's see how the motorised scheme pans out first.

# Arsenal hope to find some of their missing Wembley luck

A refereeing error and an injury left the London side empty-handed in two finals against Newcastle

History repeats itself, thought Karl Marx, the first time as tragedy, the second as farce.

Today, at Wembley, Newcastle United will be hoping that history does repeat itself. Arsenal will be praying it does not: these clubs have met twice before in the FA Cup Final, and Newcastle have won both times, in unusual, even controversial, circumstances. In 1932 the final was infamous for the so-called "over-the-line goal", whereby Newcastle, who were contentiously equalised, before going on to win.

Twenty years later, Newcastle prevailed again, Arsenal being obliged to play most of the game with ten men, after Wally Barnes, stretching to contain Jackie Milburn, caught his studs in the Wembley turf, wrenched his ligaments and was *hors de combat* thereafter, though he did come back to hobble about for a while.

There were no substitutes then, and it was just one of the many post-war finals to be blighted by injury. Newcastle would benefit again three years later when Jimmy Meadows, the Manchester City right back, hurt himself.

Newcastle's record in Wembley Cup Finals however, was remarkable:

## BRIAN GLANVILLE



It was then, in Bastin's opinion, that Chapman made one of his rare mistakes. He decided to use Bob John, the Wales left half, on the left wing. Bastin himself would play inside left, his favourite role, though, as he confessed, one he had not filled for some time.

Most surprising of all, the left half position went to George Male, the young reserve right half, who would soon succeed Tom Parker, the captain, at right back.

The game started well enough for Arsenal. Joe Hulme, the right winger, crossed from the right. Neilson, the Newcastle right back, who had played for Cardiff City when they beat Arsenal in the 1927 final, collided with his keeper, McIntroy, and John headed into the empty net. Till

then, every team that had scored first at Wembley had won the final. Things would change.

Eddie Hapgood, the left back, cleared up field after 38 minutes, but Davison, the Newcastle centre half, intercepted, hitting a long ball down the right flank. Jimmy Richardson, the Newcastle inside right, chased it to the goal-line and, as Arsenal's defenders relaxed, convinced that the ball had gone out of play, he centred for Allen to head past Moss, the Arsenal goalkeeper.

Newsreel pictures clearly showed that the ball was out of play when Richardson reached it. The goal, Bastin said, had a disheartening effect on Arsenal, and Newcastle took control of the match and won 2-1.

In 1952 Newcastle made hard work of their numerical advantage. Arsenal, switched Don Roper, their left winger, to right back, and Ray Daniel, their young Welsh centre half, played an heroic game and long kept Newcastle at bay, despite having recently broken his wrist.

And Arsenal nearly scored ten minutes from the end, when Doug Lishman, the inside left, headed a corner by Freddie Cox against the crossbar.

With five minutes left, however, a header from George Robledo, Newcastle's Chile player, crept in off the bottom of a post to give Newcastle the match 1-0.

Can Alan Shearer emulate him?

## Two teams. Twin towers. The double?

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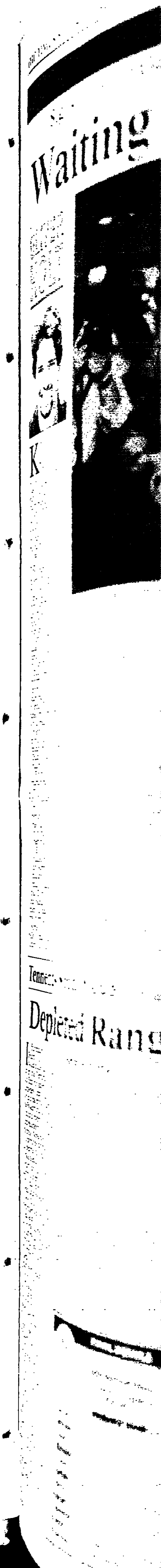
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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Signs of the old Dalglish emerge after a season of turbulence and tantrums

Waiting to have the last laugh

OLIVER HOLT



Kenny Dalglish had slipped inside the door of the cramped old press room at Anfield almost unnoticed. It was his custom then, seven or eight years ago when he was still the manager of Liverpool...



Silver lining: Dalglish is hoping to place the FA Cup in the Newcastle United trophy cabinet by beating Arsenal at Wembley this afternoon. Photograph: Stuart Conway

That particular afternoon, Liverpool had achieved a narrow win and Jamie Redknapp, signed earlier that season from Bournemouth, had made an encouraging first-team debut. The reporters clustered round and, after ten minutes of verbal sparring that produced little of note, the subject turned to the performance of the young midfielder.

Through it all, Dalglish has been the sneering villain, the man blamed for ruining Newcastle's status as everyone's favourite other team. In the weeks of a desperate April when Newcastle flirted with relegation, he had described newspapers as being "only fit to wipe dog mess off your shoes"...

humorous with it, has gone forever. This season he has been brought before us as a sort of Genghis Khan, sweeping away the age of progress and enlightenment on Tyne-side and casting Newcastle United back into the post-Keeagan dark ages.

At times it has seemed as though he has been at the helm of a ship of the damned. The club's handling of the FA Cup fourth-round tie with Stevenage Borough was a public-relations disaster that camouflaged the fact that Newcastle were right.

questioner only wanted "to stick a knife in my back". Those of us who had seen hints of a different man longed for a chance to enter a period of revisionism with Dalglish, to be shown signs that the old Dalglish, the man who once revelled in friendly banter with the media, was still there.

fallen down." Then, the week before last, he held a lunch for a few journalists in an unassuming Italian restaurant in Durham. It was somebody else's idea, not as has been suggested, a calculated charm offensive. But suddenly, mainly when the tape recorders were switched off, the real Kenny Dalglish spoke out.

visceral, self-deprecating and affable. What was most striking about Dalglish, though, the thing that was at once his most admirable quality and his Achilles' heel, was his absolute refusal to compromise or dissemble. That extended to things like a heavy Scottish accent as hard and guttural as ever it was when he first ventured south from Glasgow. No cosmetics.

For the few seconds of the pregnant pause that followed, everyone sensed a story. Perhaps Redknapp had done something to annoy Dalglish, perhaps he had been late, had been discovered out on the town the night before, had been injured.

Others manage it, but in front of a room full of people he distrusts, he finds it impossible to hide his feelings and disguise his disappointment at a bad result "when I am hurting inside". He would feel, he said, more at home justifying himself in a rough pub.

Some would have you believe that that Dalglish, sardonic and adversarial but increasing truculence as a sign that the pressure of management is getting to him again, just as at Liverpool and later at Blackburn Rovers, but with Newcastle in the Cup Final and assured of another season in the FA Carling Premiership, there are signs that success is lightening his mood.

to look forward to, something they've not had for 24 years. It's a mystery why we couldn't translate our Cup results into the league.

While United contemplate a huge spending spree, Manchester City have finally sold Georgi Kinkladze to Ajax for a little more than £5 million. The fee easily beats City's previous record sale — the £3.2 million that Blackburn Rovers paid for Garry Flitcroft in 1996. City have first refusal on Kinkladze if he returns to Britain.

Everton have made an inquiry for Mark Hughes, the Chelsea forward, who is likely to be surplus to requirements at Stamford Bridge, where Gianluca Vialli is close to signing Pierluigi Casiraghi, from Lazio.

Bobby Robson, the new PSV Eindhoven coach, is considering a move for Jon Dahl Tomasson, Newcastle United's unsettled forward. Newcastle, meanwhile, have revealed plans to redevelop St James' Park into a 51,000-capacity stadium, incorporating solar power.

'Most striking was that, at once, his most admirable quality and Achilles' heel was his absolute refusal to compromise or dissemble'

Tennents Scottish Cup: Hearts must show confidence in final Depleted Rangers put to the test

Kevin McCarran considers that self-doubt in the ranks of both teams raises the potential for a game of gratifying uncertainty

Frustration was fuel. Heart of Midlothian would blaze clear of Rangers in the Tennents Scottish Cup final this afternoon. Their supporters can hardly tell which is the more infuriating, the 36 years that have passed without a trophy or the constant reiteration of the fact in the press. Nonetheless, a statistic cannot be ignored once it has become the context of the club's existence.

Neil McCann, the winger, and Steve Fulton, the midfielder player. The manager has yet to reveal whether John Robertson, the veteran forward, will be selected, but he does possess a cutting edge that could tear open a Rangers defence that recently has been flimsy.

Several of the side, including Andy Goram, 34, the goalkeeper, Richard Gough, 36, who played with assurance on his return from the United States (he will be heading back), Ally McCaig, 35, and Brian Laudrup are about to leave Rangers.

valuing his guile despite the fact that he rarely features nowadays and is providing his last afternoon of service to the club that he has served for more than a decade.

Wim Jansen, the Celtic head coach who resigned on Monday, has expanded on his troubled relationship with Jock Brown, the club's general manager, and claimed that he had been frequently rebuffed in his attempts to buy players.

Table with 2 columns: Rangers and Heart of Midlothian. Lists players like Goram, Amoroso, Gough, Bjorland, Ponnill, R Battuso, S McCall, I Durrant, S Stensaas, G Durie, B Laudrup and Rousset, McPherson, Weir, Ritohie, Naysmith, Salvatori, Cameron, Fulton, McCann, Robertson, Adam.



Smith: disappointment

William Hill advertisement for the FA Cup Final and Scottish Cup Final. Includes betting odds for Arsenal vs Newcastle and Rangers vs Hearts, and promotional offers for a free £10 bet.

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

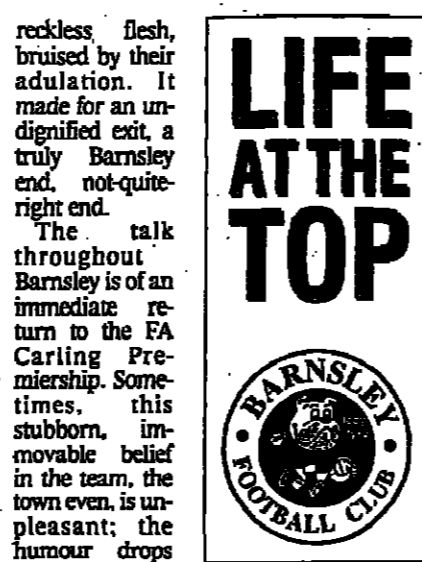
Rain or shine, rogue element make their mark

In conclusion to his series, Mark Hodgkinson reflects that there has been a seedier side to events at Oakwell

August, beautiful sunshine. The first day of the new football season. Heat so intense it hurts to grip the car steering wheel. A St John Ambulance man, neat but overwrapped in his uniform, trails through Barnsley town centre, presumably on his way to Oakwell. He passes a throng of pink-skinned men huddled around a pub entrance, beer in their hands, beer in their bellies. "Hey you," they shout to this man twice their age and half their size. "Who do you think you are?" He scurries away and pretends not to hear.

appropriate. They are out of their seats, out of their minds. They bray, swear, growl and gesture at their Manchester United counterparts. Finally, the ringleader is hauled over the perimeter fence. He makes a few token shoves, but soon surrenders. After a few paces he abruptly — and cowardly, considering the steward is off-guard — headbutts him in the face. Where we might expect the sound of a collective wince from the crowd, or a sigh, or even a few shouts of "steady on", there is a cheer, a hearty, pathetic cheer.

people in football. No half-measures, then. The final match of a fascinating season revealed the best and worst of Barnsley. After losing to United last Sunday, the supporters sang out an emotional rendition of You'll Never Walk Alone. The players and manager undertook a lap of honour. Beforehand, supporters had been asked repeatedly to keep off the pitch. It was a language they did not understand. Stewards were flattened, police officers pushed roughly aside; sentimentality had given way to hostility so quickly. The players were lost in the brutal congregation, scurrying desperately to safety. Ashley Ward, the player of the season, was ambushed and lifted onto shoulders. He looked like a man about to die, thrashing around amid this



reckless flesh, bruised by their adulation. It made for an undignified exit, a truly Barnsley end, not quite right end. The talk throughout Barnsley is of an immediate return to the FA Carling Premiership. Sometimes, this stubborn, immovable belief in the town even, is unpleasant; the humour drops from faces, there is a vague threat, an unnecessarily sinister air. It's only a game, lads, nothing personal. Barnsley, in truth, will struggle to return. They have played poorly for several weeks and recorded just one win in their last nine matches of the season. Their celebrated passing football has been

scarce for some time and there is not enough pace and precision. Danny Wilson, their manager, needs to augment the team with at least three players and they need to be play-makers, for he is already top-heavy with heart and endeavour. In Barnsley, Wilson is beyond criticism, a celestial being in a tracksuit. There has been little focus on his managerial stock, and much on his doughty what-a-bloody-nice-blokesness. This has meant that his failings have had more than a touch of thick, non-drip gloss. Three of his close-season signings from abroad, Hristov, Tinkler and Krizan,

were speculative and, by Barnsley's standards, expensive at £2.6 million in total. They added much to the wage bill and little to the team. Barnard and Ward, the home buys, were unquestionably good business, both playing nearly 40 games and rarely off form. At the start of the season, Wilson's tactics were naive. It took him too long to realise that his players were not as good as he thought. When he did insist that they curtail the flicks and dribbles and play, instead, neat six-yard passes, the pastings stopped. In the relegation run-in, he consistently chose a front two of Fjortoft and Ward. They might be useful as battering rams — with, in Ward's case, some skill — next season, but they were bulls to the slaughter in the top division, where a striker needs greater guile. Wilson has pledged himself to Barnsley for at least another season. Though this news has received little notice, it is a remarkable gambit. "He could

leave here a god now," one supporter said recently. Indeed, he would depart on surprisingly good terms, maybe to one of a clutch of big-name clubs where fans are bleating that their team have under-achieved. This means, in some cases, that they have not won the championship. If Barnsley are outside the promotion frame next season, Wilson's allure will diminish significantly. Football clubs are slaves to whimsy and the team that Wilson built will be dismissed as a one-season wonder. His decision to remain loyal is praiseworthy and daring; time will tell whether it is foolhardy. The personality to watch at Oakwell, perhaps more so

'Stewards flattened, police pushed aside, sentimentality gave way to hostility'

than Wilson, is John Dennis, the chairman. For Wilson and his players, Barnsley is a football club, a job, but for Dennis a life in itself. He is bullish and canny, on fire with ambition. The momentum that has driven the club from obscurity emanates from him and a united board. They are backed by a commendable team largely hidden from public view: Michael Spinks, the workaholic general manager; boot-room graffers such as Eric Winstanley, Colin Walker, Peter Shirriff and Norman Rimmington, and the youth development team led by Peter Casken and Maurice Firth. The supporters, too, are essential, the thousands upon thousands that do not confuse passion with aggression. In all likelihood, Barnsley may take a few seasons before they return to the Premiership, but the blend of expertise and common sense, allied to a fiercely idiosyncratic nature, will ensure that their good heart beats on, and on.

Rob Hughes, chief sports writer, pens an open letter to Ken Bates

Chairman, enjoy your blue-chip investment

The years have taught us that it is folly to try to tell Ken Bates how to run his club, especially when he's winning. On Wednesday, you got what you wanted, a trophy as big as any in Chelsea's history and the position as Britain's only winner in Europe. You have both the financial means and pulling power to recruit more talent from Italy, the homeland of your coach, Gianluca Vialli. I saw you looking at the banner in the Rasunda Stadium in Stockholm that read "Chelsea Flying the Flag for England". I know what it meant. I also know that no one at your club will rest while there is the immediate task of building on this success — to ensure that whereas Chelsea dipped into decline after Ted Drake's side won the championship in 1955 and Dave Sexton's team won the Cup Winners' Cup in 1971, this time there will be no complacency. You will not be frightened to change a winning team. It was obvious that, as much as Gianfranco Zola's artful, instant goal stole the night in Stockholm, a very average German side exposed a lack of pace and conditioning in your defence. The proposed £4.5 million signing from AC Milan of Marcel Desailly will be important in the new spine of Vialli's attempt on the championship next season. The purchase of Brian Laudrup and the mooted acquisition of Pierluigi Casiraghi could revitalise the attack. And with better medical luck, you will get a full season in midfield from Celestino Babayaro and Gustavo Poyet. Will this mean Chelsea being up for the league and

not merely for the cups? And if Wednesday did not fulfil the opportunity of showing a global television audience the blending of Latin skills with English steel, we know that it is coming along nicely. Can we be sure that past mistakes, under the Mears family, will not be repeated? In 1973 the Osgoods, Cookes and Hudsons were Britons who could perform like Latins and drink like navvies. This time there has to be talent and perseverance. Your management trio of Colin Hutchinson, Graham Rix and Vialli have to follow Liverpool's example: never to sleep on the home-ward journey from European triumph, but immediately to replant the future. And you, Ken? You always recalled to my mind Giuseppe Garibaldi, a man better with a cut-las in his hand than at the diplomats' table. The match programme on Wednesday confused you with someone else, however, naming the Chelsea chairman as "Joseph Luis van Gaal." Doubtless your acerbic tongue let someone know the thoughts of Chairman Ken. Yet the confusion with Barcelona, whose president is Josep Luis Nuñez and whose coach is Louis van Gaal, should flatter you. I recall 11 years ago seeing you in the company of Terry Venables at Barcelona: we thought you were trying to procure him as manager, though you insisted he was showing you round. Today Chelsea, the ground and the "Village" complex, has desires of matching that great Catalan club. "The supporters' vision is rarely beyond next Saturday," you once told me, "but if you are in charge, you have to look beyond the short-term. By the year 2000 Chelsea



Vialli was all smiles after the victory in Stockholm. Now the player-manager must show that he can turn Chelsea into a leading European force. Photograph: Marc Aspland

will be the richest, most powerful club in the country, arguably in Europe." We see the new edifice: the new Stamford Bridge entrance has become a hotel, a megastore, a mail-order company. The apartment blocks integral to the scheme are nearing completion and the club has been weaned off its dependency on gate-money. In your end-of-term financial report last Sunday, you wrote: "We are in good shape. Apart from the £80 million,

and man-management of Vialli, Gianni Agnelli, who previously employed Vialli at Juventus, said of him: "He is a sculptor who can transform himself into a painter." Whether he is a player who can transform himself into a coach who can draw consistency out of the Blues, we shall discover. If not, as with Rudd Gullit, I do not doubt that the next in line (perhaps Zola?) will get your call. The Europeanisation of Chelsea is irreversible.

ten-year, interest-only loan, we don't owe a penny. Indeed, we have over £30 million on deposit, soon to be augmented by the £10 million sales proceeds of 38 apartments incorporated in the southern complex." And while you are content that eight players from the youth scheme stepped into the senior side last year, the Vialli-Rix-Hutchinson triumvirate is in Italy spending more of your profits. Your success will rest, short-term, on the judgment

Futcher realises his Wembley dream at forty-something

Paul Futcher thought that playing at Wembley was a dream that he would never realise. "I'd been in the professional game for 23 years and out of it for a couple," he said. Yet tomorrow, Futcher will pull on the gold No 6 shirt of Southport and take his place in the heart of their defence in the all-Vauxhall Conference FA Umbro Trophy final against Cheltenham Town. "The twin towers, the hallowed turf... it's what everyone who starts playing football wants to achieve — and I'm no different," he said. "To get there at 41 is terrific." When Futcher's CV landed on the desk of Charles Clapham, the Southport chairman, last summer after the departure of Ronnie Moore, his manager, to Rotherham United, he admitted to being unsure about the "player" line in the application. "I did wonder if Paul's listing of himself as a player would be a bit like Bryan Robson's at Middlesbrough," Clapham said. "He was down as a player-manager but didn't play very much.

Walter Gammie meets a man who felt he would never step on to the hallowed turf

"That hasn't been the case. Paul might be 41's — it's a bit like children who are five saying they are 5's — but in all the matches we played in the last weeks of the season, Paul was the one who kept going. Where you might have expected him to tire and give himself a rest, it was the younger players that looked a bit faded and had games off. He is an inspiration to his team and a credit to himself." A total of 698 Football League appearances for eight clubs, starting at Chester City, his home-town club, and finishing at Grimsby Town, with high points at Luton Town, Oldham Athletic and Barnsley, might have been quite enough for most men. "I play on because I feel I've got the experience and I can talk to the players and organise things," Futcher said. "The players look up to me a little bit and I think they benefit. I believe I've been able to do myself justice and will carry on until that isn't the case." Futcher knows how his players will feel. "There's no point in taking the just-another-game approach," he

said. "They will be playing on a big pitch, in front of TV cameras and we will all have butterflies. I will tell each player he must simply go and show what he can do." His own memories of coping with big matches will help. "I've played for Manchester City against United in a derby before 60,000 people and appeared in FA Cup quarter-finals," he said. "For sheer tension, I remember playing for Grimsby in a match we needed to win to gain promotion. We did it, beating Exeter 2-1." Futcher's credentials as a fledgling manager are impressive, too. He took Gresley Rovers to the Dr Martens League title in 1996-97, only for their lack of a suitable ground to deny them a place in the Conference — which went instead to the team that finished 11 points below them... Cheltenham Town. "They've had one hell of a season," Futcher said. "They reached the third round of the



Futcher has his sights set on a victorious Wembley debut

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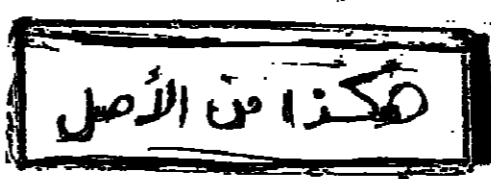
DON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT HEROES The Cup Final history is littered with men whose shining deeds have made them part of football folklore. Then there are those who performed great deeds but have missed out on their place in history. 1. Bill Perry (1953) Stanley's stalwart, Mortensen's hat-trick but it was Bill Perry who scored the winner. 2. Steve Meehan (1951) Just when he thought he'd scored the greatest Cup Final goal of them all, up popped Ricky Villa. 3. Mark Crossley (1991) Dave Bassett's penalty save in '88 is lauded, but Crossley's from Seán Gay was just as good. 4. Dave Watson (1973) Everyone remembers Porterfield's goal, Montgomery's save and Sloan's hat, but it wouldn't have been possible without Watson's towering performance. 5. David Geddis (1978) His performance made even the Leader of the Opposition sit up and take notice (no, not Terry Neill). 6. Arthur Aitken (1977) Came in as an unused novice when Stewart Houston broke his leg — and played a blinder.



Mortensen scores Blackpool's second goal in 1953 — but what about Bill Perry? 7. Joe Mercer (1952) The veteran had an inspired game for ten-man Arsenal, but Newcastle took the trophy (could that be Tony Adams today?). 8. Derek Nispet (1978) His delight at releasing the final was so great that he had his own lap of honour. 9. Derek Temple (1988) You can probably remember Mike Trebilcock's two goals or that bloke with the braces who ran on the pitch, but what about Everton's match-winner? 10. David Jack (1923) Scored the first Wembley Cup Final goal, but had his blunder stolen by a white horse. 11. Eddie Gray (1970) The greatest display of Wembley wing play since Sir Stanley, but he still didn't get a winner's medal. Compiled by Richard Whitehead

Table with 2 columns: 1997-98 FA CUP RECORDS and FA CUP FINAL STATISTICS. Includes Arsenal and Newcastle records, appearances, goals, and previous final visits.

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RUGBY UNION

# Newcastle wary of lunch date in London

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

HAS this strangest of seasons one more twist? Ordinarily few would bet against Newcastle making a meal of Harlequins over lunchtime at the Stoop memorial ground tomorrow and taking the Allied Dunbar Premiership title back to the North East. But we have learnt that nothing is what it seems in English rugby and no one will be more cautious than Newcastle themselves.

Their points difference against Saracens is such that a draw will suffice to earn them the championship at the end of their first year in the top flight. But they have learnt to tread warily in London: all three of their Premiership defeats this season have been in the capital, against Richmond most damagingly, Saracens themselves by two points and against Wasps by one point.

Since Monday, when they beat Bath, they will have been reminding themselves that, but for a last-second tackle by Gavin Johnson, Harlequins would have beaten Saracens 17 days ago. With all the perversity of which they are capable, Harlequins will wind

to pip his team to the title, is one who has found it frustrating, week after week, to prepare his players to avoid conflict with the law, only to discover the law makes an ass of him still.

"We have a wonderful product here," Pienaar said after Saracens had ended their season — and returned to the top of the table — against Northampton on Thursday. "It will never rival football but in this country it can go forward in leaps and bounds. But only if we have a system where the structure is consistent and we have better refereeing."

"We have fines at the club for players who give away needless penalties. We study videos and criticise people if they make mistakes but the next week we concede penalties for something new. We don't want to give away points, we want to be professional. Referees give me answers, I take them back to the players, we work on them. But who sits down with the referees, as we do with the players, who guides them and tells them whether they had a good game or not?"

While the title is being decided, the first of the play-off games for promotion to the first division will take place at Richmond Athletic Ground, where London Scottish play Bristol, John Allan, the former Scotland and South Africa hooker who was player-coach to the Scottish earlier this season, returns for a final fling and Simon Holmes plays his first game for two months in the back row against a Bristol side that may have seven internationals but has lost the habit of winning.

The Barbarians defend their title in the Middlesex Sevens at Twickenham today, led by David Scully, of Wakefield, and including four Fijians in their ranks. The Baa-Baas, who hope to make a three-match visit to South America later this month, line up alongside another homeless team from London, Nigerians, who meet Gloucester, and a development team from London Broncos, who lost to Reading in the Staines Sevens last week.

There is also English interest in the final of the French championship at the Stade de France in Paris this evening: Richard Pool-Jones, sometime Cambridge University, Biarritz and Wasps flanker, plays for Stade Français against Perpignan in a game that brings together the Liévremon brothers, both internationals but now on opposing teams, Marc for Stade Français and Thomas leading the Perpignan pack.

MIDDLESEX SEVENS DRAW (first game at 11.20). Saracens v Hove Park; Sale v Wasps; Leicester v Northampton; Reading v Emerging London Broncos; Kenya v Gloucester; London Mepanans; Harlequins v Northampton; London Welsh v Barbarians.

## Legendary French centre is retiring to start new life on the run



For Sella, the time has come to reflect on a glorious career and look forward to returning to his roots in the countryside of southwestern France. Photograph: Des Jensen

Philippe Sella was taking life lying down this week. The interview was conducted in the physiotherapist's room at Bramley Road, the strong hands of the masseuse at work on the thigh muscles, but still the mobile telephone rang, the colleagues joked at the time the "old man" spent on the couch and Sella talked of life after rugby.

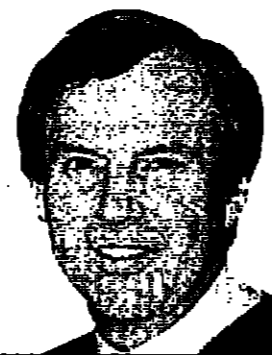
If any player deserves to pass with tranquillity into a sport's history, it is Sella. There are players one would willingly see the back of, there are those you wish could go on for ever; but time waits for no man and so it is that Sella and Michael Lynagh, the Frenchman and the

# Sella puts faith in traditional values

him to the world record of 111 international appearances, the game showed him possibilities of which he had never dreamt.

Through it all he has carried the principles learnt at home on the farm. Spend any time in Sella's company and he will talk of values. He carries with him a respect for the game that those youngsters at Saracens who have had the inestimable good fortune to associate with him these past two years will do well to emulate. Last Saturday, amid the tumult and the shouting that resounded through Twickenham when Saracens had laid claim to the Test's Bitter Cup, Sella called Josie, his wife, down to the pitch.

### DAVID HANDS



His children, Geoffrey, 5, were already there, young Geoffrey at the centre of a group of players who were giving him a French-style dance of joy. "I wanted to show the kids the atmosphere of the pitch," Sella said. "Not everyone can come on to the pitch but it was a special day, a privilege for them and I wanted to share it with them. After the lap of honour I asked my wife to come down too — it's great when you're in

the stands but the atmosphere on the pitch is special."

It was not easy for the home-loving Sella family to uproot from Agen and come to London, knowing no one, not speaking the language, two years ago. They made their home in Swiss Cottage, little more than a half-hour from Saracens' training ground at Bramley Road and the same distance to Philippina's lycée. Now, according to her father, she does not want to go home, though in July the family will return to Villeneuve-sur-Lot, back to the bosom of their own families.

They have not been as thoroughly Anglicised as all that. Sella recounted how, early in his stay in London, he went to Lord's during a Test match. "I was there for two hours and it was a five-day game. I spent the first hour having lunch, the second hour in a room talking with people. Cricket? We do not have it in France."

What Sella will have in France is life on the run — not unlike the restless life of the sportsman. His work for Sella Communications, which organises hospitality around sports events, gives seminars to companies, arranges corporate golf days, will take him to Paris on two or three days of each week, because that is where 90 per cent of his clients are. The suitcase will still be packed, the work continued in airports, on trains and planes.

"But I prefer to live in the South West, for the values, to be in the peaceful country," Sella said. "I try to put over the sporting values I

have learnt over the past 16, 17 years. When I lived with my parents I learnt the values of living on the land and when I discovered rugby, I discovered stronger values."

"It is part of living in a community, improving the personality, to listen, to ask, to teach. I have done that all my life and rugby is a great sport for teaching you how to get on with people. We are one in thirty or forty people and if we are to get better, we need to communicate. I learnt that with Agen, with France and I have found it with Saracens."

"I have been very happy to have been part of the professional era because I think that, even when rugby was amateur, I always tried to be professional in my approach. But I know now that, if we want to play the best game, we have to train more, leave more time for recovery, have one goal. That has not been easy for me these past two years because I have continued to work with my company."

"But I decided that, in the last year of my career, I must focus only on the rugby. In the first year in England I was playing rugby here and working in France; it was too difficult. But this season I wanted to finish well. I have tried to organise, to be a good team-mate at Saracens, I have used my mind more in training and playing."

**‘We have to be careful to protect that special feeling the game has’**

change because rugby cannot be played without them. We must each support the other. We must have respect, generosity, humility as well as ambition. Rugby helps us realise all these words because it is such a collective contact sport. To win the ball we must be close, we must touch our team-mates, we must push and pull and support.

"If we forget that, we may be playing rugby but it won't be the same game. We have to be careful, to protect that special feeling about the game."

"Young players will only know professional rugby and the former players must be good teachers, give them advice about the true spirit of the game. I think they will discover it for themselves, anyway. A contract gives you the focus for rugby but the money does not compare with the spirit."

Sella's belief, which could sound trite coming from the mouth of one less experienced or well-travelled, is profound. It is the product not only of his upbringing but of the highs and lows of a sporting life from the match that he considers the best in which he played — the 1987 World Cup semi-final against Australia

— to the dejection of defeat in the final against New Zealand. Ask him of the player he most admires, he who played alongside a galaxy of talent in France, and he will tell you of Nick Farr-Jones, the Australia scrum half and captain. "It was not only the skill with which he played the game but the spirit with which he played it. He is a great man, a good man."

There is one more opportunity to pay tribute to the farmer's boy from the little village of Bourran, when Sella plays in the Sanyo Cup match at Twickenham next Saturday. Take it.

## Stimpson aims to bring misery to an end with Leicester move

By MARK SOUSTER

THIS has been the best of seasons for Newcastle and probably the worst for Tim Stimpson, who has endured a miserable six months since losing his place to Stuart Legg. However, as Newcastle prepare for what could be their finest hour, Stimpson, who earlier this week was called up for the England tour of the southern hemisphere, has put an end to his personal torment by agreeing to join Leicester. A formal announcement is expected from Welford Road on Monday.

The 24-year-old moved to Newcastle in May 1996 from West Hartlepool, but is now out of contract.

The season had begun promisingly for the former England full back, whose future with club and country looked secure after he returned from South Africa, where he was the top points-scorer with 111 for the British Isles. But as John Bentley, another Lion at Newcastle, discovered, nothing is guaranteed. To add insult to injury, Stimpson also lost his England place to Matt Perry.

Leicester have also signed David Loughheed, the Canada international, on a two-year contract. Capped 22 times for his country, Loughheed, 30, can play as a wing or centre. He is

best remembered for scoring two tries for Canada against England at Twickenham in December 1994.

Sale yesterday completed the signing of Barrie-Jon Mather, the former Wigan and Great Britain rugby league centre. Mather, 25, will move to Heywood Road when his contract with Castleford Tigers expires in October.

He is the first of several players that Sale have earmarked as they seek to become one of the premier clubs in England. John Mitchell, the director of rugby, said: "His value to us is his ability to play in three different positions."

In addition, Josh Lewsey, the Bristol centre selected for the England tour party this week, is believed to be joining Sale after a disagreement with the West Country club over his availability this weekend. Lawrence Dallaglio, the England captain during the Five Nations Championship, has withdrawn from the World XV to play England's champions for the Sanyo Cup at Twickenham a week today. Earlier this week, Dallaglio was left out of the England squad for the tour of the southern hemisphere because of a shoulder injury. He is

replaced by Tiaan Strauss, the former South Africa captain who is qualifying for Australia and is playing for New South Wales.

Barring problems, Swansea will become Welsh champions after playing Pontypridd this evening. In theory, Cardiff could stop them but they would have to beat Llanelli by 53 points and hope Swansea lose by a similar margin at Sardin Road. Garin Jenkins, the Wales hooker, is expected, however.



Stimpson: worst season

## US likely to be denied final word

THE third women's World Cup will reach its climax at the Dutch national rugby centre in Amsterdam today and it would take a brave man — or woman — to bet against New Zealand taking away the trophy for the first time (David Hands writes). They will play the United States, the 1991 winners, in the final, leaving England, who won the title in 1994, to play Canada for third place in the curtain-raiser.

As if the task of beating the so-called "Gal Blacks" were not enough, the Americans will be without Candy Orsini, the stuntwoman from Florida, who is their most experienced player. As they did against England in Edinburgh four years ago, the Americans will play a wide game but, as England showed then, and Scotland have shown in the past fortnight, their scrum remains vulnerable.

New Zealand, the overwhelming favourites, are equipped to play tight or loose. Technically, their pack is good and in Annaleah Rush, the centre, they have the tournament's leading scorer with 64 of the 300 points they have accumulated in four games.

England have already beaten Canada, 70-6, in the pool matches and will be expected to do so again.

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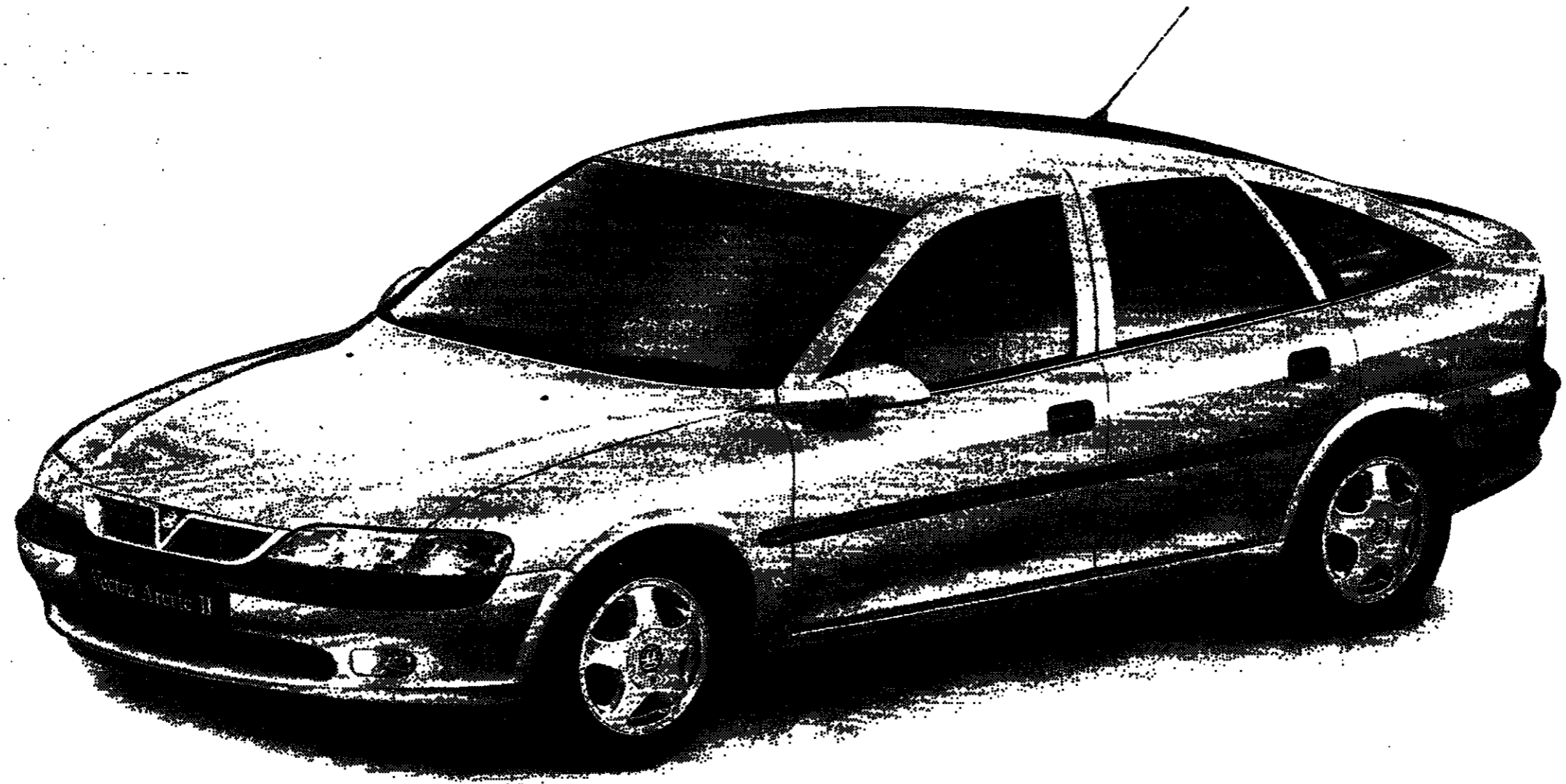
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Tree's company: Adam Hoolioake sought out the peace and quiet of the English countryside after England's disappointing one-day showing in the Caribbean

# Adam returns to garden after fall from grace

Captaining England to success and failure has forced the elder Hoolioake to pause for thought

People had begun to talk, and he knew it. Worse, he had begun to wonder about himself. So when it ended, that Caribbean tour that had promised so much and delivered so little, Adam Hoolioake spent his three precious days off in a way no one would have expected. He took himself off to the country and, in solitary introspection, worked out what he had done wrong.

He did not go far, just to a country hotel on the Surrey-Hampshire borders, and he sought nothing except the space and time to think. "I surprised myself by doing it," he says. "I'm a people person, so it was really unlike me, but I needed to get away, so that no one was talking at me." His big, expressive eyes roll.

"I literally just sat and thought all weekend, often by the lake in the grounds." There was a hint of wonder in the voice, for such private contemplation, let alone self-doubt, is alien to the elder Hoolioake, but he believes it worked. He aims to show it next week, when he resumes the captaincy of England's one-day team for the three-match series against South Africa.

Hoolioake's dismay over the West Indies tour was twofold. He had failed, partly through injury, in his primary ambition of establishing himself as a Test match batsman. Then he had led the one-day team to four straight defeats in a series that they were expected to win.

that he was not up to the job. Hoolioake has analysed it all and reached some firm conclusions. This week, gazing on the grounds of another Hampshire hotel, he gave them voice, a voice full of conviction that the same mistake will not be made again.

"I had listened to too many people and acted on their thoughts instead of doing it my way," he said. "That's no one's fault but my own and, in my opinion, doing things because others believed in them was worse than making bad decisions of my own."

"I was lacking a bit of confidence. As the series went on, I took fewer and fewer risks and that was a mistake, because my captaincy is based on instincts and gambles. Things were very blurred to me. It was all moving at a million miles an hour, with games on top of one another, and there was no time to think."

"I'm not a worrier by nature but I did worry then. I took it all personally. I felt responsible. I have always said that I don't mind losing a captaincy because I never aspired to it but it's true that the more you get the more you're scared of losing."

Hoolioake had been an accident waiting to happen and he was sufficiently streetwise to know it. This time last year, as he played the decisive shots in all three one-day wins over Australia, his stock soared disproportionately. Hoolioake stopped reading the newspapers.

"It was a conscious thing. I just felt that if I believed all the good things I knew would be written about me then, I would believe the bad things that would come later, too," he said. "I haven't gone out and bought a newspaper since."

The "bad things", he might like to know, have not appeared yet, for there remains a general will for him to succeed. The reason is obvious:



ALAN LEE

Hoolioake is young and handsome, articulate and gregarious, aggressive and ambitious. He might be an idealist for the ideal of the cricketer in the 21st century. But, as previous models have discovered, this counts for nothing when the tide turns.

Until recently, he had been scaling all the ladders and avoiding all the snakes. Progress was seamless, from Surrey to England A to the senior national team. And there was the priceless bonus of a younger brother, with an even more outrageous talent. Adam and Ben were cricketer's dream ticket.

But it never lasts. In the weeks since Adam's "thinking weekend", as he calls it, Ben has been damaged by allegations of drug use in just the type of twenty-somethings magazine that the game's marketing men had identified as the new audience the Hoolioakes would reach. This was not the way they had planned it. Ben lost form and confidence. In rapid succession, the boys from Ballarat had found those snakes.

and it upset him. He also wasn't playing well, so we had a long chat after our game with Kent last week. We talked about how he was practising, about getting back to basics, and the next day he went out and won the Gold Award against Somerset."

It was only last week that the brothers stopped sharing a house and the bond between them is striking. "He's old enough to look after himself now, so I kicked him out," Adam grinned. "I'll still look out for him but I don't worry on his account because nothing fazes him, even his recent problems. He's so young and such a free spirit that he'll put it out of his head."

At 26, six years older than his brother, Adam remains a committed bachelor — hence a post-tour split with his girlfriend — and a self-confessed extrovert. "I'll do outrageous things, speed and risk things like jet-skiing or bungee-jumping," he says. And the extrovert competitor is evident on the field, too. At least, it will be once normal business is resumed.

"In the West Indies, I deliberately took a back seat because I was conscious that people might think I was playing up to some big image that has been created for me, that 'Hollywood' thing. But it isn't me to stay in the background. I'm naturally loud and outspoken."

Surrey were once a team of curmudgeonly moaners. Hoolioake has shed that baggage. His team plays with a swagger and opponents predictably dislike them for it. Some, inevitably, will dislike him personally, because he is brash and direct. "I don't care if we're unpopular," he says. "I make no apology for it. There are too many people in this country worried about popularity. I leave it up to other sides to be popular and lose." These words were delivered with a rattle and a smile. In

print, though, they will look arrogant, and Hoolioake knows it. "Every team I captain gets up people's noses because I encourage my players to be arrogant. That's my biggest strength. I don't like to see people doubt themselves and take backward steps. Opponents will laugh when we fall flat on our face, as sometimes we will, but we have to deal with that."

"I don't advocate sledging, though if it happens and it stays within bounds, fair enough. You are going to have arguments and battles on the field and I am someone who thrives on them. I need other people to fire me up to make me play well."

"I had a real temper when I was young. It's more under control now, but it's still there — it tends to come out when I'm behind a wheel rather than on the field. But I do need confrontation. I need to seek a battle. That's what makes me tick and I think I'd lost it a little bit during the winter."

Despite all its rich portents, it turned into a bleak winter for Hoolioake, but it might have been worse. But for the loyalty and belief of the selectors, he might have lost the one-day captaincy when Alec Stewart, his Surrey teammate, took charge of the Test team.

Stewart interrupted now, bursting out of the hotel gym to poke fun at Hoolioake's bright yellow shirt. It was not a staged scene, they get along well, despite the curiosity of alternating authority. "We don't need to talk, to work anything out. It's an easy thing between us. We're not jealous people. We'll do our best for each other, just as we would for anyone else," Hoolioake said.

This week, Hoolioake will captain Stewart. On June 4, the roles will be reversed if Hoolioake can convince the selectors he is good enough to hold down a Test match batting place. It seems a big "if", but not to the man himself. "I don't just think I can play at that level, I know I can." Much more like the old Adam.

## Early-season form of Lewis makes strong case for recall

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

IN THE cluttered confines of one-day cricket, yesterday's result is rapidly forgotten and last month's seems buried in the mists of time. England's selectors, meeting this evening in Southampton, will review their recent Caribbean setback with due concern but are highly unlikely to be deflected from agreed policy.

The World Cup is now less than a year distant but England could play up to 30 one-day internationals in the interim. Even the dismay of four consecutive defeats by a West Indies team that would barely be in the top half of the ante-post World Cup betting rates as no more than a blip on the long-term graph.

In their own conditions, England are a formidable limited-overs side, as witnessed by six successive series wins in the Texaco Trophy. Even the fact that the opposition next week is South Africa, arguably now the best in the world at this form of the game, should not intimidate them.

By arriving with only ten days to spare before the start of the international programme, and agreeing to just two warm-up limited-overs games, the South Africans have gambled on good weather and swift acclimatisation. Australia's dire early results last year, after a comparably cramped build-up, testify to the likely consequences.

England's position as favourites can only be strengthened by the return to form and fitness of Darren Gough. He was sorely missed in the Caribbean, not only for his habit of talking top-order wickets but for his uplifting personality. No cause seems lost when Gough is around and the selectors will not hesitate over his reintroduction.

The rest of the seam attack is more problematical. Of the Test bowlers, Andy Caddick is not regarded as suitable one-day material and Dean Headley was omitted after some expensive spells in the West Indies. Angus Fraser, his replacement, was a shade surprised to be required, but his ability to get through ten miserly overs at the start of an innings may see him included notwithstanding.

Chris Silverwood, one of the unfortunate fringe players during the winter, has begun the home season in superb form and, given more self-belief, would be effective wherever the ball swings. He would be a bold pick but more likely, for all that it will provoke sighs of resigned familiarity, is yet another recall for Chris Lewis.

Alec Stewart's opening partner will surely be Nick Knight, now that he has regained form with Warwickshire. Darren Maddy, a great success on the England A tour, is almost certain to be paired with Michael Atherton in the Test side, but Alistair Brown will probably be preferred now.

The final batting place is a tease. Graeme Hick looked disorientated in the Caribbean and has slipped down the pecking order, while Mark Ramprakash is best kept for Test cricket. Nasser Hussain resents his omission from the one-day side with some reason and, as a brilliant fielder in decent batting form, he would be a sensible choice at No 5.

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**PROBABLE SQUAD**

A.J. Stewart, N.V. Knight, A.D. Brown, C.J. Adams, G.P. Thorpe, N. Hussain, A.J. Hoolioake (captain), M.A. Atherton, M.V. Fleming, R.D.B. Croft, A.F. Giles, D. Gough, A.R.C. Fraser, C.C. Lewis.

English disdain for young talent, but with the rest of the year in mind, rather than the capacity one-day crowds, it could be kindness instead.

His cause for inclusion is not helped by the likelihood that the one unpaired selection will be Chris Adams. The new Sussex captain, might easily have played at this level before but now, freed from the internal strife of Derbyshire, he is expressing his belligerent ability better than ever and will probably bat at No 3, Hoolioake's preferred one-day position.

Alec Stewart's opening partner will surely be Nick Knight, now that he has regained form with Warwickshire. Darren Maddy, a great success on the England A tour, is almost certain to be paired with Michael Atherton in the Test side, but Alistair Brown will probably be preferred now.

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ugh, they will look and... Every team I cap... up people's noses... encourage my play... arrogant. That's no... I don't like to... doubt themselves... backward steps. Op... will laugh when we... n our face, as some... will, but we have to... that... advocate sledging... if it happens and i... when bounds, fan... You are going to ha... and battles on the... I am someone who... I fire me up to make... a real temper when I... It's more under... but it's still des... to come out when... a wheel rather... the field. But I do not... I need to seek a... what makes me... I think I'd lost a lit... the winner."

AND JRN

# Fulton put in shade by Hooper century

By SIMON WILDE

CANTERBURY (third day of four): Kent, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 84 runs ahead of Lancashire

DAVID FULTON appears destined to live in the shadows. The Kent opener does not have a range of strokes wide enough to play one-day cricket and does not score heavily enough in four-day cricket to command attention. When he ostentatiously celebrated a long-overdue championship century against Surrey last year, it was with champagne unwielded after Kent's title challenge went amiss. Yesterday, he made the mistake of scoring runs on the same day as Carl Hooper.

Fulton did good work towards hauling Kent, 259 in arrears on the first innings, back into this match. He and Key gave their side the sound start that was essential if Kent were to set Lancashire, who last won a championship match at Canterbury in 1936, a decent target today and, when Key and Ward fell in quick succession, Fulton was under-terred.

Unfortunately for Fulton, the St Lawrence crowd were more interested in Hooper, his third partner, who was at his most magical. Hooper stroked the ball effortlessly and audaciously to all parts, disinterested in letting bowlers dictate to him — or in running. His century, which came off 99 balls, contained 84 in boundaries and his share of a third-wicket stand of 133 was 82.

The Guyanese got into his awesome stride against Watkinson, who bowled 24 balls to him and conceded 32 runs before retiring to lick his wounds at mid-on. Subsequently, the only bowler to escape punishment was Wasim Akram, who bowled little and received treatment on his groin. Flintoff was cut and pulled. Martin driven imperiously, Keedy swept.

Austin took the worst punishment, conceding 23 in an over that saw Hooper move from 89 to 112 — a chip over mid-wicket taking him to his hundred — and later in the same spell being struck for two more sixes. Hooper showed how the nineties should be negotiated: Fulton, when he got there, ground to a halt and was out for 96 after 4½ hours of labour.

Wells was no more successful at making progress. Out of the first fifty runs he put on with Hooper, Wells's share was three. Hooper cut a long loose completely, as five overs from Austin yielded 50.

Hooper's hundred was his 22nd for Kent in all competitions in five seasons of county cricket. He made his debut for them in 1992, the same year in which Fulton made his first appearance. Fulton has 3,500 competitive runs to his name. Hooper more than 9,000, despite skipping a couple of years to play for West Indies. They both played their parts yesterday in a terrific fightback.

# Unsung bowler times entrance to perfection after Telemachus injury



Weston appears in command as he drives Klusener but the bowler eventually had the final word, uprooting his off stump. Photograph: Adrian Murrell/Allsport

By ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

WORCESTER (second day of three): The South Africans, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 166 runs ahead of Worcestershire

THERE were bowlers whose names sprang easily to mind when looking ahead to the South Africans' visit. Donald was one. Pollock another. Adams a third. Lance Klusener created less interest, indeed less recognition, but the early evidence indicates that his face, voice and style will soon gain familiarity and respect among English audiences.

Klusener is the archetypal South African cricketer, bristling with aggression and industry. Think of Eddie Barlow and you have the picture. He bats left-handed, usually with some ferocity, and his right-arm swing bowling makes up in cunning and perseverance what it lacks in pace. He is also not shy of giving batsmen a few comments to remember him by.

At New Road yesterday, he

# Klusener reaps benefit of industrial evolution

took four of the first five wickets and also accounted for the fifth with a diving catch at gully. On a day when the touring side lost a bowler to a freakish injury, this was some consolation and more consequential than the progress of a game that is relying on declarations for its impetus.

For Roger Telemachus, the tumble in pre-play fielding practice that dislocated his right shoulder was the latest in a series of injury setbacks. A fast-medium bowler, he withdrew from an A-team tour of England two years ago and then had to miss the senior trip to Australia.

The full extent of his injury will be assessed by a shoulder specialist but Craig Smith, the team physiotherapist, confirmed that he would be out for a minimum of four weeks.

Telemachus may well return home for surgery, in which event the tour manager will name a replacement, but the immediate concern is the vacancy created in their team for the Texaco Trophy internationals, for

which Telemachus was a like-ly starter. Klusener's bowling was a reassurance. Through his career, runs and wickets have arrived in dramatic packages. His Test debut, 18 months ago in Calcutta, offered the prime

example. Fourteen overs in the first-innings brought him nought for 75. In the second, given the new ball when Donald was injured, he took eight for 64.

Klusener, 26, emerged through South Africa's county cricket system. A keen huntsman and fisherman, he has a reputation for bowling long, uncompromising spells. On a blissfully blue morning, in conditions friendly to batsmen, he did just that, taking two wickets in his fifth over of the day to put the South Africans in command.

Phil Weston lost his off stump, playing inside the line as Klusener went round the wicket. Three balls later, a heartening innings from Graeme Hick ended simply as he clipped what looked like a leg-stump half-volley to

square leg. Give Klusener some credit, though, for a change of pace. Until then, Hick had batted commendably, especially, he it noted, against Donald. The instinct to assert, which deserted him in the Caribbean one-day internationals, was evident again and one back-foot cover-driven four was as good as it gets. England are unlikely to pick him this weekend but it would be unwise to write him off just yet.

The innings of the day, though, came from David Leatherdale. It is tempting to think of him still as a promising youngster; in fact, he is 30 and has yet to make 1,000 runs in a season. He played a series of flowing straight drives yesterday in making 69 from 97 balls.

Leatherdale remains prone to casual dismissals and he hit across the line of a slower ball to give Klusener his fourth wicket. Adams spun out Rhodes before Hick declared, 59 behind, and Gerry Liebenberg followed his first-innings 98 with a rapid

nought. Destroyer Kirtley... Langer at double... Hampshire crumble... 42... 42... 42



Telemachus is led away after dislocating his shoulder

# Leicestershire regain their championship look

By IVO TENNANT

BRISTOL (third day of four): Leicestershire (24pts) beat Gloucestershire (4) by nine wickets

AS ON the first two days, Leicestershire's quicker bowlers were altogether too much for Gloucestershire, whose second-innings total of 259 was insufficient to prolong this match beyond early afternoon, even though the pitch was as true as any to be found at Bristol. The difference between these sides will be more apparent as the Britannic Assurance county championship table becomes meaningful in the weeks to come.

Given better weather than they had last year, or indeed, for their first championship match of the season, Leicestershire have an excellent chance

of emulating their triumph of two years ago. They have so many decent county cricketers, as opposed to star names who will be fished by England. They are coping, what is more, without James Whitaker, their captain, whose scarred knee needs further rest.

Gloucestershire were 71 runs in arrears at the start yesterday, four second-innings wickets intact. If there was one batsman likely to stay in for any length of time, it was seemingly Russell, with his helmet, dark glasses and customary air of preoccupation.

Mullally, though, beat his defensive prod for pace, just as he had done Jon Lewis, the nightwatchman, whose off stump was knocked out of the ground.

The batsman who kept Leicestershire in the field until shortly before lunch was Ball, who made the second-highest score of the innings, 44, which included seven fours and came off 65 balls. This was nothing if not a defiant piece of cricket.

Smith was a worthy partner until he was particularly well caught low down by Mills at long leg off Simmons's medium pace and even Walsh muddled the ball. Leicestershire were left to score 43 runs and these were mostly achieved by Maddy, who is the most appealing of their younger batsmen.

The one who Gloucestershire managed to take was that of Wells, a century-maker in the first innings, who

was bowled by Walsh. They opened the bowling with Ball's off spin, but there was nothing much in the pitch for him, or, indeed, anybody else. The match was effectively decided on the first day, when Chris Lewis and Mullally, who finished with eight wickets all told, achieved significant movement.

As when they won the championship and, in the years between the departure of David Gower and when Nigel Briers gave up the captaincy, Leicestershire are essentially a side bereft of a big-match player. Maddy might play for England this season and so, too — whisper it quietly — could Chris Lewis

but these are mostly the kind of players fashioned in the image of Jack Birkenshaw, their seasoned coach. The team is a very professional one.

# Yorkshire learn painful lesson

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

NORTHAMPTON (third day of four): Northamptonshire (23pts) beat Yorkshire (4) by eight wickets

SUMMER finally came to Wantage Road yesterday as Northamptonshire achieved their first championship win, and a resounding one at that. Montgomery and Bailey took them there before tea with a volley of attractive strokes after their fighting spirit.

Both sides will have learnt something from this match and Yorkshire's lesson may eventually yield the greater profit. Maybe, after their rip-roaring start to the season, they were beginning to find life easier than professional sportsmen should. This defeat will help to concentrate a few minds on what is necessary, not just to be a decent side, which they are, but also to be a successful one.

The crucial session of this game was the first one on the second day, when Northamptonshire began ten runs ahead with six wickets in hand. Had Yorkshire bowled tightly and held everything that went to hand, they might have steered a course through the choppy waters of the second innings. Instead, they performed in a sloppy manner more akin to late August. The capitulation on Thurs-

day evening to 135 for seven against the tyro off spinner, Graeme Swann, was a poor effort and was soon put into perspective when they resumed yesterday. Gough, ten not out overnight, was soon thumping strokes on both sides of the wicket as Blakey dug in for company.

Shortly after Gough went to his half-century, from 61 balls, by belting Swann over long-on for six, he offered Curran a difficult catch at mid-wicket that the captain held extremely well, but with Blakey resolute and Silverwood unleashing a few rasping shots of his own, Yorkshire made 133 runs in the morning.

Malcolm's return at the Football Stand End accounted for Blakey, who was bowled for 49 when Malcolm realised that the accurate full-length ball is usually more productive than the poorly directed short one. Bailey's dream-like interception at second slip two balls later gave the bowler his third wicket and his ninth in the match.

To win, Northamptonshire had to make 105, and the elder of the Swann brothers was soon leg-before to White. Hamilton, fielding as substitute, held a blade at mid-off to remove Loye before Montgomery, looking for the sweep that would have brought up their fifty, missed, but the two boys counted just as well.

## Vodafone Challenge Series

### Worcestershire v South Africans

WORCESTER (second day of three): The South Africans, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 166 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Table with columns for batsmen and bowlers, showing runs, wickets, and other statistics for the match between Worcestershire and South Africans.

### Gloucestershire v Leicestershire

BRISTOL (third day of four): Leicestershire (24pts) beat Gloucestershire (4) by nine wickets

Table with columns for batsmen and bowlers, showing runs, wickets, and other statistics for the match between Gloucestershire and Leicestershire.

## ESSEX First Innings 185

Table showing batting and bowling statistics for Essex's first innings.

## Gloucestershire v Leicestershire

Table showing batting and bowling statistics for Gloucestershire's first innings.

## Leicestershire v Gloucestershire

Table showing batting and bowling statistics for Leicestershire's first innings.

## Second Innings

Table showing batting and bowling statistics for the second innings of the Gloucestershire vs Leicestershire match.

## Leicestershire v Gloucestershire

Table showing batting and bowling statistics for Leicestershire's second innings.

## MIDDLESEX First Innings 204 (A R)

Table showing batting and bowling statistics for Middlesex's first innings.

## Second Innings

Table showing batting and bowling statistics for Middlesex's second innings.

## Northamptonshire v Yorkshire

Table showing batting and bowling statistics for Northamptonshire's first innings.

## Second Innings

Table showing batting and bowling statistics for Northamptonshire's second innings.

## Nottinghamshire v Sussex

Table showing batting and bowling statistics for Nottinghamshire's first innings.

## Second Innings

Table showing batting and bowling statistics for Nottinghamshire's second innings.

## Other match

Table showing batting and bowling statistics for other matches, including Glamorgan vs Cambridge University.

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## THE TIMES

## SPORTS SERVICE

## CRICKET



مكتبة من الأصل

EQUESTRIANISM

Skelton is riding high after double

By Jenny MacArthur

NICK SKELTON gained his second success in as many days when he and his Olympic mare, Virtual Village Showtime, won the Traxdata Great Park Stakes in effortless style at a sultry Royal Windsor Horse Show yesterday.

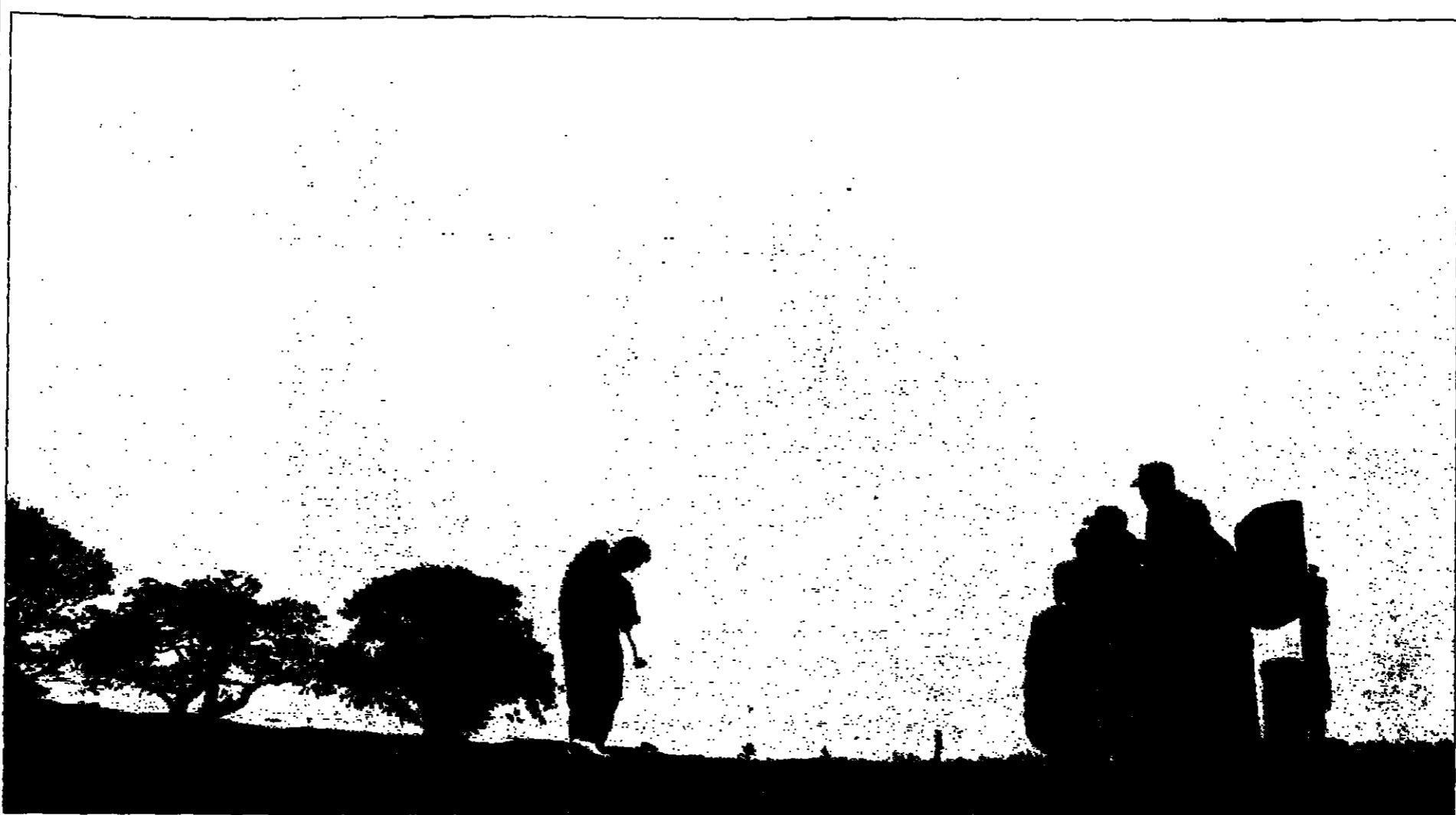
With almost disdainful ease, Skelton, 40, a winner on the rain-soaked opening day on Carne Gene, cruised round the 12-fence course to finish nearly five seconds ahead of Heinrich-Hermann Engemann of Germany, on Di Jacomo.

"There's no better horse if you keep her at the right level," Skelton said of the 13-year-old mare, owned by Sue and Fred Welch.

The course, designed by Bob Ellis, made the lightest of demands on the experienced mare yesterday. Well-tuned after her win in the Area International Trial at the Aldershot show last weekend, her faultless round reflected her speed and accuracy.

But a day is a long time in showjumping. Yesterday Skelton had changed his tune. "Giselle has the necessary scope - I'll leave it to her to tell me if she is ready," he said.

Mel Webb watches the second day unfold at the International Open



Late swing: Montgomerie powers a shot down the 11th fairway as twilight begins to descend at The Oxfordshire yesterday. Photograph: Andrew Redington/Allsport

Montgomerie warming to the task

IT IS AMAZING, it is not what different people do to relax. Barry Lane, professional golfer, found that he had a few hours to kill the other day, so he bought some paint and slapped it on his bathroom wall.

He played 28 holes yesterday, missed only one fairway and had rounds of 69 and 68. He sprinkled his second card of the day with five birdies and only one bogey, the result of his solitary yardward drive. It must be nice to have a hobby that pays as well as his.

The misery on Thursday was followed by a glorious day, and Montgomerie revelled in it. God was in his heaven, all was right with the world. When he is playing well, Montgomerie's disposition is as sunny as yesterday's weather, and 36 holes of compelling golf left him positively beaming.

Before Thursday, it had been four weeks since he had last hit a ball. Not many of his peers could afford to take that sort of time off and hope to return in such good form.

But that was then, and this is now: Montgomerie's first priority these days is not merely playing. Winning is what it is all about - "I'd rather have one win than three second places," he said - and, with a sort of brain-numbing inevitability, he has every chance of achieving that again this weekend.

can afford to wind down by doing his job, especially when he does it as efficiently as Montgomerie.

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and radiated a negative air. It is a difficult habit to break and Davies, who is hitting the ball quite well, in fact, loathes and detests it.

At 9th, she also missed from about five feet at the 7th. Indeed, Se apart, none of the competitors looked entirely comfortable over the short ones.

Hackney marches into contention

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

Hackney, playing beautifully, was five under with four holes to play, but Laura Davies, a playing partner, was faring less well, at three over.

Hackney finished in the top ten in three of the four major championships last season. The exception was this one, in which she missed the cut. Yesterday, though, she was rarely out of position and her accuracy was rewarded with an outward half of 31.

She had birdies at the 3rd, 6th, 8th and 9th and by far the longest putt was the ten-footer she holed for her birdie four

and radiated a negative air. It is a difficult habit to break and Davies, who is hitting the ball quite well, in fact, loathes and detests it.

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RUGBY LEAGUE: COACH FREE TO CONCENTRATE ON GAME WITH BRADFORD AFTER CLEARING THE AIR AT HALIFAX

Comings and goings give Pendlebury strength

By Christopher Irvine

THE sudden disappearance and equally rapid re-emergence of John Pendlebury as coach of Halifax Blue Sox, in a bizarre 24-hour period this week, has hardly been ideal preparation for their JJB Super League encounter away to their neighbours, Bradford Bulls, tomorrow night.

face Bradford, the champions, who have one of the biggest. On slender resources, Halifax has confounded sceptics by winning three of their opening five league games. By resigning and then being persuaded to return, Pendlebury has effectively made his point that boardroom rifts have hampered his job and that more money is needed to bolster a dreary playing staff.

With matters now apparently smoothed out behind the scenes, Pendlebury can turn to more pressing issues on the pitch and the welcome return of Simon Baldwin, Craig Dean and Andy Hobson from injury. If Halifax are to reach the

play-offs, they will have to be lucky with injuries, or add to the recent signing of Jamie Bloom, the South Africa full back, from Widnes Vikings. John Bentley, on his return from rugby union, sustained a knee injury in Halifax's defeat away to Warrington Wolves last week. Bradford should have a full-strength side, with Stuart Spruce, the Great Britain full back, responding well to treatment for a back injury.

St Helens felt the force of Bradford's stout defence last Sunday and need to get their play-off ambitions back on track against Hull Sharks, for whom Alan Hunte, who scored 189 tries in 245 appearances for St Helens. Steve Prescott and Simon

Both return to Knowsley Road for the first time since their departure in a combined £350,000 deal in the close season. London Broncos field an "emerging" squad in the Middlesex Sevens at Twickenham today, but their credibility in the Super League depends more on them adding to their single win at Huddersfield Giants tomorrow. Huddersfield, the only unbeaten side in the competition, give Rob Smyth, signed last week from Wigan Warriors, his debut on the wing.

Table with multiple columns: BASEBALL, AMERICAN LEAGUE, NATIONAL LEAGUE, BADMINTON, CYCLING, DANCE SPORT, EQUESTRIANISM, FOOTBALL, GOLF, HOCKEY, RUGBY LEAGUE, RUGBY UNION, SAILING, SPEEDWAY, TENNIS.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Malaysia trip puts Scotland under fire

BOWLS: The Scottish Women's Bowling Association has incurred the wrath of the organisers of this year's home internationals by sending seven of its leading players to a one-off tournament in Malaysia in June.

SCOTLAND TEAM FOR HOME INTERNATIONALS: S Armstrong (Bonython), J Austin (Macdonald), A Bram (Caldwell), I Barnard (Williams), L Brown (Mackay), D Barr (Ray Forth), B Brown (Gibson), M Gair (Stewart), A Dewar (Hewson), N Davies (Cardonald), J Forrest (Hewson), A Forgan (Gairdner), J Fisher (Gibson), A Gibson (Topping), R Hutchison (Adair), K Houston (Hewson), P Johnson (Gairdner), A Kennedy (Hewson), J Kelly (Stewart), A Mackay (Blackburn), J Moran (Gairdner), M Robertson (Blackburn), M Russell (Livingston), H Rafter (Stranvay).

Searle show

BOWLING: Sculler Greg Searle and the British women's heavyweight squad will take centre stage at Duisburg International regatta this weekend (Mike Rosewell writes). Searle, who won a world championship bronze in 1997 in his first year as a sculler, has Andy Williams of Germany, who took the 1977 silver, amongst his opponents.

Doohan on top

MOTORCYCLING: Four-times world champion Michael Doohan, winner for the past five years, was on course to claim pole position in tomorrow's Italian 500cc grand prix after yesterday's opening qualifying session at Mugello. The Australian clocked one minute and 53.71 seconds, over half-second faster than his Repsol Honda team-mate, Alex Criville, of Spain.

Hayles' defence

BY CYCLING: Rob Hayles, Britain's new 10-mile time trial champion, defends his title in the British Sugar Silver Spoon two-day road race, which starts today with a 15-mile prologue near Easington, in Nottinghamshire.

British quartet add to earlier successes

FOUR more fighters reached the semi-finals of the European judo championships here yesterday to establish, in emphatic style, an upward turn in fortunes for the sport in Great Britain. David Somerville, Georgia Singleton, Simone Callender and Debbie Allen all made their first-round contests look easy.

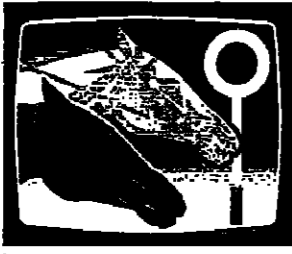
Table with multiple columns: BASEBALL, AMERICAN LEAGUE, NATIONAL LEAGUE, BADMINTON, CYCLING, DANCE SPORT, EQUESTRIANISM, FOOTBALL, GOLF, HOCKEY, RUGBY LEAGUE, RUGBY UNION, SAILING, SPEEDWAY, TENNIS.

RACING

Air Express to take off in Lockinge

NEWBURY

2.00: Wave Rock surprised a shorter-priced stablemate when winning at Salisbury...



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

NEWMARKET CHANNEL 4

3.10: A dreadful handicap by Newmarket standards, but the booking of Neil Pollard for Montecristo catches the eye...

2.30: Happy Valentine holds outstanding claims. Considered a leading contender for the Derby after winning his only juvenile start...

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: HAPPY VALENTINE (2-3) Newbury Next best: Cyber World (4-5) Newbury

resumed winning ways in Dubai in the spring before running a promising race in the group two Jockey Club Stakes at Newmarket...

3.00: This is likely to be run at a furious pace with Crystal Hearted sure to be prominent in company with the pacemaking Cape Cross...

RICHARD EVANS

RACELINE COMMENTARY table with columns for race time, race name, and horse names.

RACING NEXT WEEK

Table listing racing events for the following week, including dates and locations.

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Jibe, ridden by Fallon, earned a 16-1 quote for the Oaks after winning the Newbury Fillies' Trial yesterday

Eaton Square moves upstairs

By CHRIS McGRATH

THE whole point of racing is that you tend to get different results on grass from those you might expect on paper. These are times, admittedly, when a lot of bother could be saved by looking at the racecard and awarding the prizes in the parade ring...

NEWMARKET

Racing results and race cards for Newmarket, including Thunderer, 2.10 Feather 'N Lace, 2.40 Straco, 3.10 Highly Prized, 2.10 EBF DITCH MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES, 2.40 NSK SPARK PLUGS RATED HANDICAP, 3.10 THURLOW HANDICAP, 3.45 EQUITY FINEST COLLECTIONS, 4.15 BOLLINGER CHAMPAGNE SERIES HANDICAP.

FORM FOCUS section with commentary on various races and horses.

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NEWBURY

Racing results for Newbury, including 1.30 Makebelieve Island, 2.00 Jonas Nightingale, 2.30 The Faraway Tree.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

Guide to the racecard explaining symbols and abbreviations used in the race results.

GOING GOOD TO FIRM

Racing results under the heading 'GOING GOOD TO FIRM', including 1.30 KINGWOOD STUDD MAIDEN STAKES, 2.00 LONDON GOLD CUP HANDICAP, 2.30 ASTON PARK STAKES.

JUDMONT LOCKINGE STAKES

Racing results for the Judmont Lockinge Stakes, including 3.00 JUDMONT LOCKINGE STAKES, 3.35 WIMBORNE HANDICAP, 4.05 HEADLEY FILLIES HANDICAP.

FORM FOCUS

Wave Rock beat Rethello in a 5-runner 3yo handicap at Salisbury (1m 11.50p), good to soft. Jasmin 73rd of 11 to finish in 3yo maiden stakes at Doncaster (1m 26.00p), good to soft.

FORM FOCUS

Air Express beat Sharp short head in 8-runner group 1 stakes at Ascot (1m, good), with Purdie 14th (better off 7.5s) than in his last race at Salisbury (1m 2.20p), good to soft.

FORM FOCUS

Ferry Hill beat Walthea Sands in 5-runner handicap at Newmarket (1m 21.00p), good to soft. Bona Gardens beat Moon Blast 141 to 6 in 8-runner maiden stakes at Kempton (1m 4.00p), good to soft.

FORM FOCUS

Shannon was the only horse to show any improvement in 14-runner handicap at Brighton (1m 21.40p), good to soft. Silver Sabre 191st of 39 to finish in maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 21.30p), good to soft.

FORM FOCUS

Happy Valentine has a sound chance to start making up for last time in 5-runner handicap at Newmarket (1m 21.00p), good to soft.

FORM FOCUS

Shannon was the only horse to show any improvement in 14-runner handicap at Brighton (1m 21.40p), good to soft. Silver Sabre 191st of 39 to finish in maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 21.30p), good to soft.

COURSE SPECIALISTS table listing winners and runners for various racecourses.

COURSE SPECIALISTS table listing winners and runners for various racecourses.

FORM FOCUS

Blooming Amazing beat Gadge 31 to 15 in 15-runner ladies handicap at Beverley (1m 10.00p), good to soft. Alpine Hideaway next 2nd of 14 to finish in 10-runner ladies handicap at Ripon (1m 2.00p), good to soft.

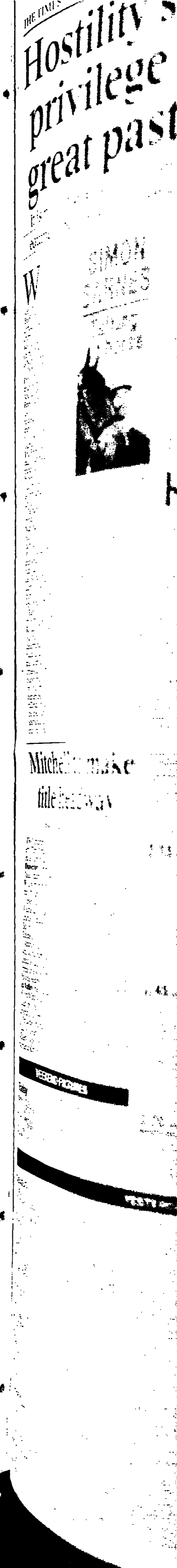
FORM FOCUS

Brimming 1st 2nd of 4 to finish in 5-runner maiden stakes at Beverley (1m 21.00p), good to soft. Clarendon 1st 2nd of 11 to finish in 3yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4.00p), good to soft.

FORM FOCUS

Brimming 1st 2nd of 4 to finish in 5-runner maiden stakes at Beverley (1m 21.00p), good to soft. Clarendon 1st 2nd of 11 to finish in 3yo maiden stakes at Newmarket (1m 4.00p), good to soft.

COURSE SPECIALISTS table listing winners and runners for various racecourses.







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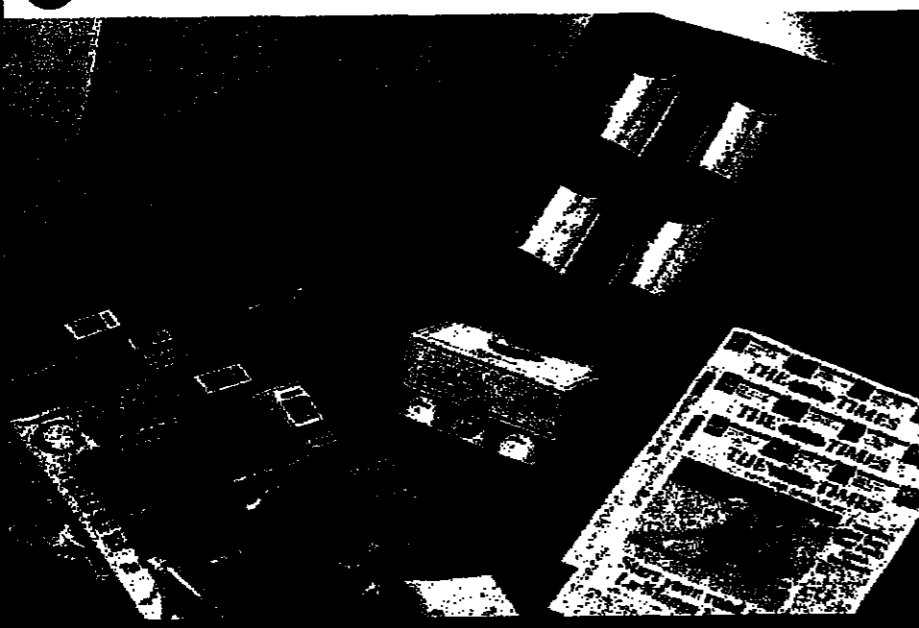


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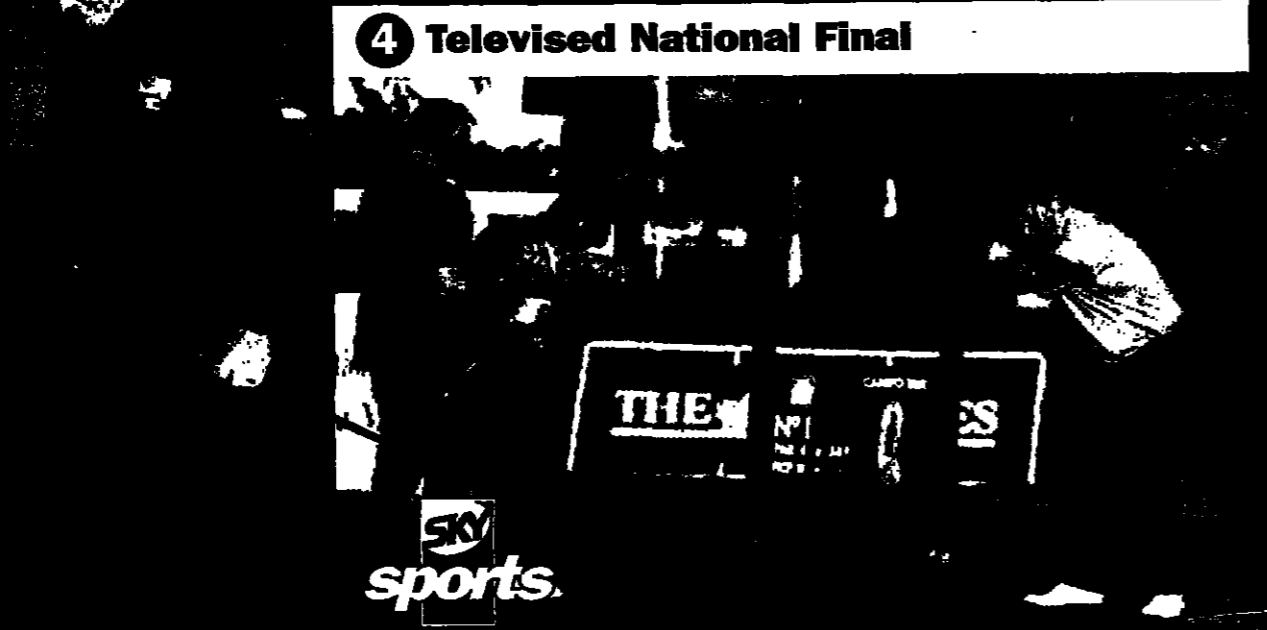
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Berasategui  
puts Steven  
out to grass

TENNIS

Berasategui puts Steven out to grass

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN ROME

EIGHT players eligible for direct acceptance to Wimbledon, including a quartet ranked inside the top 30, were absent from the list of entries published by the All England Club yesterday.

The decision ensures that the Wimbledon field will again be the weakest grand-slam tournament in world ranking terms, but the identity of the four highest-placed absentees offers no cause for regret. Their actions amount to an admission of their lack of conviction on grass.

Alberto Berasategui, world-ranked No 13, Sergi Bruguera (No 23), Thomas Muster (No 24) and Fabrice Santoro (No 27) are clay-court specialists who hold no realistic prospect of winning the blue ribbon. By contrast, all 112 women with rankings high enough to gain direct acceptance have entered.

Also missing from the men's event are Carlos Costa, Fernando Meligeni, the semi-retired Boris Becker and Michael Stich, who retired after reaching the semi-finals last year. Becker's absence is consistent with his assertion last July that he had played his last Wimbledon, although he may yet request one of the eight wild cards on offer.

Santoro's absence is the biggest surprise, even if he has yet to win a match in three visits. The Frenchman feels that his efforts on grass last year compromised his game when he returned to clay. Much is made of the clay-courtiers' non-appearance, but that seems certain to change in 2000. The ATP Tour plans to make it compulsory for every player to contest the four grand-slam events.

One of a large contingent of highly ranked Spanish clay-courtiers, Berasategui has lost the only competitive match he

has played on grass. "I think we should all go to Wimbledon," he said. "If I play on grass I would like to go well-prepared; play first at Queen's and Nottingham. It is very difficult to play on grass with the way I hold my racket, but for sure I'm going to try it one year. Maybe next year."

Berasategui showed his prowess on clay here yesterday when he brushed aside Brett Steven in the quarter-finals of the Italian Open. In a match interrupted by rain, Berasategui's relentless top spin proved too potent for the New Zealander, who was repeatedly passed on his ventures to the net.

No player has won more matches on clay this year than Berasategui, who might have made further gains with a shade more ruthlessness. After winning in Estoril last month and losing the final in Barcelona, he had two match points against Codric Pioline in the Monte Carlo semi-finals and nine against Felix Mantilla in the Hamburg quarter-finals last week.

Seeded No 13 here, he is approaching the form that swept him to the French Open final four years ago and attributed his progress to his improved fitness. Berasategui today plays Albert Costa, who beat Michael Chang 6-2, 6-1 last night, for a place in the final.

In the other half of the draw, Gustavo Kuerten, the French Open champion from Brazil, overwhelmed Fernando Verducci, a qualifier from Spain, 6-4 6-4. Kuerten, seeded No 9, has got better with every match on clay. He looks sure to make a bold defence of his title at Roland Garros, where he announced himself so spectacularly 12 months ago. Today he plays either Marcelo Rios or Richard Krajicek.



Kournikova is fully focused as she makes a backhand return during her impressive victory over Hingis yesterday

Kournikova makes breakthrough

FROM ALEX RAMSAY IN BERLIN

ONLY 24 hours before her quarter-final at the German Open yesterday, Martina Hingis had brushed aside suggestions that Anna Kournikova could be ready to challenge for the top spot in women's tennis. Hingis had always won her matches — it was far too early to talk about a rivalry. Perhaps Hingis will think again after being beaten 6-3, 7-6 by the young Russian in a match that hinted at more than just a future rivalry, but a possible change in the pecking order.

Since the beginning of the year, Kournikova has been coached by Pavel Slozil and the support of having someone travelling with her on a regular basis has had a marked impression. Her results in a packed schedule of ten tournaments include victories over Davenport, Seles and Sanchez Vicario. But when it came to Hingis, Kournikova came close but

never close enough, losing to her twice this year, most recently last week in Rome. Yesterday she raced to a 3-0 lead, shredding the Hingis service with some blistering returns. Tired after winning two consecutive tournaments, Hingis looked unable to cope with the pace of some of Kournikova's shots and, by the time she had slumped to a 5-1 deficit, she was waiting for the winners to fly by her.

Hingis managed to stop the rot and hold her service for 5-2, then left the court for a bathroom break. She knows that timing is everything. The plan worked to a point — Kournikova promptly dropped her service — but it was not enough to save the set. Hingis had her best chance to turn the match around at 3-3 in the second set. With Kournikova beginning to look nervous and serving

double faults to give Hingis a break point, the world No 1 stepped in to blast a forehand return but dumped the ball in the net.

From there, Kournikova was on a roll to her first match point, when the nerves took over again and the once lethal backhand suddenly lost its power. "She wanted to kill me on the backhand," Hingis said. "I gave it away, but she didn't want to take it." Not that it dented Kournikova's confidence. "It's not every day you have match points against the No 1," she said, and, once she had seen Hingis plant another forehead in the net on break point two games later, she was ready for the tie-break, allowing Hingis just one point. It was 17 minutes from her first match point to her last, but the wait was worth it as the mental block of trying to beat

Hingis had been broken. "I played my game and didn't make too many mistakes," she said. "I tried not to think of who was on the other side of the net and take control of the points early. Finally, I used everything I had learnt from playing her before."

The loss, in Hingis's mind, did not affect her build-up to the French Open, the one grand-slam event that she has yet to win. "I know she can play tennis but she never did it against me, she was always nervous," Hingis said. She may find that has all changed the next time they meet.

□ Monica Seles's father has died after a long battle against cancer. Karoly Seles, 64, was of Hungarian origin but from the Yugoslavian town of Ujvidek, near the Hungarian border. He worked as a caricaturist before guiding his daughter's career.

Results, page 43

SAILING

France waits as all-British battle rages

FROM EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT IN LA ROCHELLE

THE two British skippers in the Whitbread Round the World Race, Paul Standbridge, on *Toshiba*, and Lawrie Smith, on *Silk Cut*, were engaged in a thrilling race in the Bay of Biscay yesterday for the right to take line honours when the eighth leg finishes here tonight or early tomorrow.

Standbridge, who for years sailed as a crewman for Smith, was marginally ahead and producing slightly better boat speed than his former skipper. However, with France just 300 miles away, only 1.8 miles separated the two crews as they reached about 12 knots in a fresh northeasterly breeze.

Neither skipper can win the race overall but Standbridge, in particular, has sailed an impressive leg, keeping *Toshiba* at or near the head of the fleet for much of the time and through some extremely tricky conditions. It seems that his demoralised crew, who lie seventh overall, may well have been buoyed by the presence of Murray Ross, who came on board as navigator when Andrew Cape resigned in Baltimore.

After the boats had finally escaped the ridge of high pressure that slowed the whole fleet on Thursday, *Ado Sead*, on *Silk Cut*, said: "We have been close together since Thursday afternoon when *Toshiba* took a big loss to come over and tack on us from the right side."

"During the night she has extended on us using her big reacher that wraps around her narrow spreader rig. We have hung in there with our medium jib and heavy reacher — both a little compromised in order to match *Toshiba's* angle and speed."

*Chessie Racing*, skippered by John Kosciuszko, which moved up the fleet with *Silk Cut* to the north of the main pack, as a potential wild card in the run-in to the finish. Still the most northerly boat *Chessie* was travelling marginally quicker on a better angle than either *Silk Cut* or *Toshiba*, though she was still nearly 40 miles behind in third place.

After *Chessie* there was another gap of 30 miles to the all-female crew on *EF Education*, who are still hanging on in fourth place for their best finish of the race.

Behind them Paul Cayard.

DETAILS

LATEST POSITIONS (at 1200GMT yesterday, with miles to La Rochelle): 1. *Toshiba* (US) 307.2; 2. *Silk Cut* (GB) 308; 3. *Chessie Racing* (US) 345.2; 4. *EF Education* (Swe) 377.5; 5. *Ment Cup* (Morocco) 389.7; 6. *EF Language* (Swe) 404.9; 7. *Sweeten March* (Swe) 423.8; 8. *Innovation Kvaerner* (Swe) 444.3; 9. *BrunelSurvery* (Hol) 452.7.

in *EF Language*, and his crew were one of several boats running out of food with lunch today their last proper meal. Cayard was in sixth position, about 20 miles ahead of his nearest rival in the overall points. *Swedish Match*, skippered by Gunnar Krantz, and still on course for an historic Whitbread victory when he docks here.

This leg is proving yet another frustrating experience for Grant Dalton on *Merit Cup*. He disputed the lead with Standbridge for several days before falling away in lighter conditions and was yesterday in fifth position, 82 miles behind *Toshiba*.

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go

# Ford's pretty big pussycat

A new creature will be introduced to these shores this summer, though its numbers at first will be kept low. Nevertheless it represents an important addition to our native streetlife. It is Ford's new Cougar coupe.

**Lovely Cougar needs sharper claws, reports Stuart Birch**

The Cougar is handsome, sleek and highly distinctive, but far from wild. In fact it is very well behaved, with the ability to stop in its tracks when necessary. The importers believe that the cute little things will appeal particularly to women.

The Cougar joins Ford's Puma in a determined attack on the burgeoning sports coupé market. The company expects the Cougar — which will come with a choice of four-cylinder, 130PS 2-litre or V6, 170PS 2.5-litre engines — to become a top seller in its sector.

It could almost do that on looks alone. It may be based on that rep's delight, the Mondeo, but its aesthetics are an example of how a futuristic design can become a practical reality, much as the Capri did almost 30 years ago. It will be very aggressively priced, starting at £19,000.

But although the media has been allowed to play with pre-production Cougars in Germany, buyers must wait until later this year before it goes on sale through 168 selected dealers. Will it be worth waiting for? The answer must be an emphatic yes, but this is a car

that has a complex character. Despite its looks and its fine handling on winding, swooping roads, it did not quite set my pulse racing or my heart a-flutter when driven hard. The car felt a shade conservative, a little soft.

But Ford's chassis experts say that stiffening the suspension would not make it any quicker and would degrade its excellent ride.

The V6 engine yields delightfully growly noises but not sensational performance. Ford claims 0-60mph in about 8.5 seconds and 140mph top speed; I saw almost 130mph on the Autobahn.

Ford, however, is sure it knows what it is up to with the Cougar. It is more of an elegant grand tourer than the agile little Puma, and is geared to tempt those who never before considered having Ford's blue oval on their driveway.

Only about a quarter of Cougar owners or users will currently have Fords, believes the company. About 60 per cent of Cougars are likely to be bought by businesses for senior managers.

Richard Parry-Jones, Ford's

worldwide product development overlord, points out that a growing number of business executives are women: "We hope this car will appeal to them." It probably will. Fords are not designed specifically with women in mind, says Parry-Jones, but their physical needs are considered very carefully.

The Cougar is a 2+2. Rear-seat headroom is limited, but it is highly practical and the boot, reached through a large hatchback, is enormous. Equipment level on all versions is very high, with air conditioning as standard. Safety is a priority: front and side airbags are fitted, as they will eventually be on all Ford cars. ABS is standard.

Colour choice is blue, silver or black; blue is taking over from red in the colour popularity charts. But is there any chance of a higher performance, wilder Cougar in the future — an animal really to send pulses racing? Ford's team members just give wait-and-see smiles.

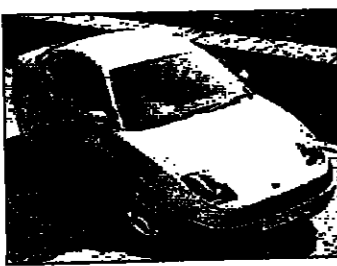
### COUGAR

Engine: 2-litre 16v, or 2.5-litre 24v.  
Equipment: Twin front and side airbags, ABS, air conditioning.  
Price: Around £19,000-£24,000.



The Cougar may be based around the rep's favourite — the Mondeo — but its futuristic looks are set to make it a hit, particularly with women

## HOW THE COMPETITION LINES UP AGAINST FORD'S COUGAR IN THE HOTLY FOUGHT COUPE MARKET: ALAN COPPS TRIES THE CONTENDERS



Fiat Turbo: £20,151-£22,800

■ **FIAT's** coupé is more aggressive-looking than its Alfa cousin but shares many virtues. Its interior is more imaginative. The turbo version is tremendously quick and exciting to drive.



Volvo C70: £30,465-£32,455

■ **THE SAINT'S** new car and a vital element of Volvo's campaign to ditch its old boxy image. Similar to the CLK in interior space but more powerful and outperforms the Mercedes and Peugeot, just.



Alfa-Romeo GTV: £21,693

■ **DROP-dead** gorgeous looks can't be beaten; handling, too, is of the highest order. Latest V6 guise boasts stunning performance. Comes in 2-litre and soon in 3-litre V6 form (price to be announced).



Mercedes CLK: £26,640-£36,640

■ **EXUDES** Mercedes solidity, and thus looks a bit too bulky. But it is surprisingly agile, with astonishing interior space. Comes in 2-litre, 2.3-litre supercharged and 3.2-litre versions.



Peugeot 406: £20,645-£26,995

■ **OUTSTANDING** bargain of the larger class. Top-of-the-range V6 model runs close in performance to the Volvo and Mercedes. More responsive and satisfying to drive at speed, yet costs considerably less.



Citroën Xsara: £13,160-£17,515

■ **LATEST** example of a three-door hatchback calling itself a coupé, though the top-of-the-range VTS will reach 137mph and offers handling to cope. Because it is a hatch, it has proper rear seats.



Ford Puma: £13,225-£14,700

■ **TOP-FUN** Puma practically begs to be thrown around corners and is astonishingly forgiving. Alfa runs it very close on steering. Head-turning looks and affordable, especially in new 1.4-litre. Also 1.7-litre and 1.4-litre versions.

# Eco-tourists make a right expedition of themselves

Some travel plans are compelling by their very absurdity — navigating a bouncy castle down the Nile, crossing the Pampas by motorised lawnmower, shopping by hovercraft: all perch tantalisingly on the edge of feasible. But London to Lisbon via five countries on an itty little scooter? For nine days? The bottom numbs at the prospect.

To Lisbon's Expo'98 on a scooter?  
John Naish is numb at the idea

the basis of their initiative and potential staying power, rather than their ability to look — or dance — like Sting in *Quadrophonia*. Indeed, scooter-piloting skills took a distant pillion seat in the picking process. For most, their first experience of riding the nippy automatic bike came just 24 hours before they hit the trail, hours before they start it may have been for some, too, as they set off for Dover at six in the morning following a night of frolic at the official launch at Tower Bridge. Following their baptism of buzzing on the road to the ferry terminal, the riders took their retro-styled commuter-shopper scooters to France, on the way to Lisbon

via Belgium, Luxembourg, Spain, and their final destination — the official opening of Expo'98 in Lisbon. The ET4 is one of Piaggio's best-selling scoots, having a strong Sixties look and a nostalgic Vespa badge. While its automatic gearbox makes it simple to ride, it emits a seacow-with-bellyache drone that might just get a little wearing after the first few hundred miles.

no more than a lost bad dream. The sponsor — student and youth specialist, Campus Travel — is calling the trip the Wave of Discovery, in celebration of the Expo's eco-theme: The oceans — a heritage for the future.

"People didn't believe me when I told them I was going to Lisbon on a scooter," said rider Alaric Pritchard, from Beaconside, Staffordshire. "But it's an unmissable adventure and there's an amazing load of parties on the way." "I had to go for this," he added. "I may never get the chance to do this again." But that is not exactly true, as he was picked as the overall winner of the competition and has won a Vespa of his very own, which will be awaiting him when he gets back. By then, though, he may not feel like perching on it for a while.

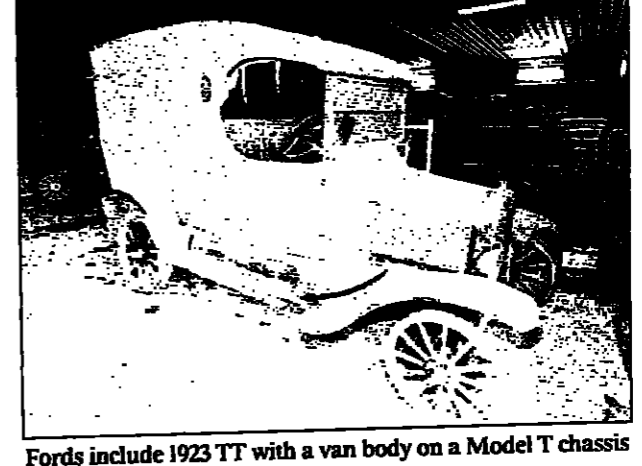
ADRIAN SHERATT



Ace faces going places: the team of Times readers, with Alaric Pritchard far left, set off for Lisbon via Dover



Trucks range from rotten and rusting to perfectly restored



Fords include 1923 TT with a van body on a Model T chassis

# Secret history in truckloads

Vaughan Freeman on a heavy passion that cannot yet show itself

One of the best-kept secrets of Britain's motoring history lies hidden behind the 15ft-tall doors of two industrial warehouses, tucked away in the Berkshire countryside. And it will have to remain secret until the man behind it all manages to work through layers of local council bureaucracy.

The warehouses house an extraordinary slice of our automotive heritage — almost 100 commercial vehicles, many of them working perfectly, others rotting and rusted. They create a remarkably evocative picture of the vans, trucks and coaches that worked our roads for more than half a century.

There is row upon row of Ford, Bedford and Austin commercial vehicles dating from 1928 to 1967, comprising what is probably the biggest private collection of its kind in the country, a little-known but staggering array.

John Mould, the man who amassed these workhorse treasures, wants to make them better known by opening the collection to the public, and has already gone to a great deal of time and expense to prepare the surrounding area. He would also like picnic areas by the lake adjoining the warehouses that house the collection. So far though his plans have run foul of the local council amid a tangle of red tape, but Mould is hopeful something can eventually be worked out.

"Occasionally we do have private visitors from rotary clubs and charities," he says. "You see the faces of the visitors, some of them men who drove vehicles like these 40 or 50 years ago, and they light up. They might have arrived on walking sticks but pretty soon they are climbing over and under them, as the vehicles bring back the memories. It's great."

It is this personal and affectionate nostalgia for the vehicles that fuels Mould's passion: "They are one-offs — and part of our heritage: these commercials are what put England together."

Every one of these vehicles was hand-built, and all were used — and used hard. Today trucks are built by computers and by robots, with one man and an airgun tightening up the nuts and that's it. There were no heaters in them. In the winter you had an army greatcoat, a big old pair of boots and four pairs of socks."

If proof were needed that Henry Ford was better building cars and trucks than telling jokes, Mould's collection includes a 1938 Ford Fordor saloon (four doors — gaddidit), two-door Tudors (another feeble Ford funny), and an array of Model A cars from 1927 to 1931, as well as numerous Model AA vans, built at Ford's Trafford Park plant.

There are Model Bs too, half a dozen Ford V8s from the 1930s, a gorgeous 1939 "woody" V8 Shooting Brake, a sort of early-day MPV with all-wood body, a 1923 TT commercial with a van body on a Model T "Tin Lizzie" chassis, and the very first Bedford, a 1931 Bedford WS lorry, with a six-cylinder, 27bhp engine that was in effect a Chevrolet.

Other stars of the collection include a comprehensive selection of Bedford commercials from 1931 to 1966, and, across the road, dozens of American and British cars, including a 1955 Thunderbird, a 1966 Corvette Stingray, a 1956 Chevrolet, as well as Consuls and Zephyrs.

Rick Richardson, who in the 1980s cared for the Ferraris and other exotica of Pink Floyd star and classic-car aficionado Nick Mason, now oversees the care and restoration of the collection in his role as curator.

Richardson says: "People tend not to collect commercial vehicles, although they are just as important as the cars. People just don't have the space for storing them, though. Even if you have got only one or two lorries, you need a good-sized garage to store them. Everything is bigger, scaled-up, from a car."

They are part of our heritage: they put England together

Hatred of traffic wardens is universal, but for men they bring out a schoolboy loathing of power-tripping prefects. And the wardens love it

# Why men have a clamping complex

Ray Weldon's latest book of short stories shows men in a more sympathetic light than she has shown in the past. Weldon implied in a television interview this week that men had earned a break from unrelenting feminism, that there had been a real change in their attitudes to women. Hopefully this is true, so that all we need now is to do something about men's attitude to each other.



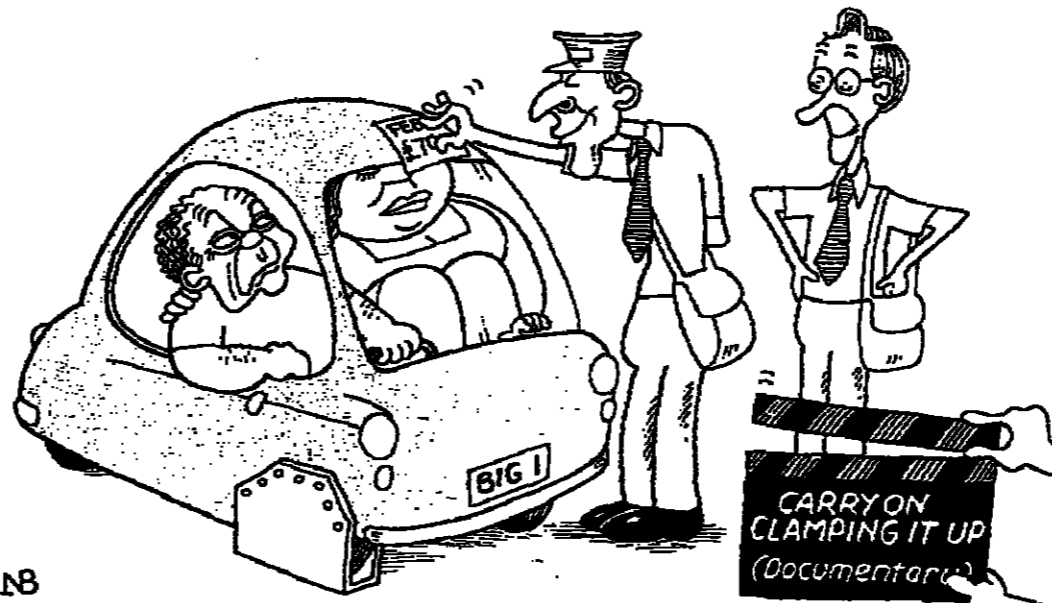
Peter Barnard

I lived for some years in a relatively quiet London street between Fleet Street and the Victoria Embankment. The street had parking meters, so the authorities could not have thought that parked cars were obstructive, but if I failed to feed the meter first thing in the morning there was a

good chance of being clamped. Sometimes I would open a window on the second floor of my building and watch the clammers assault my car. I would call out, in the tones of a captured dissident shouting to someone from Amnesty International, that I was on my way down, but this would be as a seagull's cry in a gale.

At least in those days clamping and other parking measures came under the control of the police, and one felt that whatever their shortcomings, the police had an earned authority and were carrying out what amounted to a political policy. But once local authorities were given control of parking, in part to take pressure off the police, the grudging consensus between clammer and clamped disappeared.

Red faces, throbbing temples, veins standing out like rivers...



NS

these are the visible signs of a driver ranting at a clammer, as seen in the television programme. And that was without the bleeped expletives. It is all very undignified. The one certain thing about this cardio-inducing anger is that it will not remove a single clamp, and every driver knows it. Nor would these drivers have been talking in such a way to a police

officer, which brings us to the heart of the problem. There is one thing you cannot take out of men and that is their experience of school. In particular, school structures are indelibly fixed in the male psyche. In the grown-up world, school authority figures do not simply disappear, they are replaced by other authority figures. And in the context of

motoring, teachers are replaced by police officers. Prefects are replaced by traffic wardens. Nobody has to be a traffic warden, nobody has to be a prefect. These are roles that individuals take on because (from the standpoint of the rest of the population) they like sucking up to authority; they are fond of bossing people about. They like orderly

rows of books and pencils, ergo, they will grow up to like cars parked in an orderly way. They are insensitive bureaucrats: they will be secretary of the football team, but they will not play in it. They are, at school and on the streets, perceived as a complete pain in the neck.

Nor is this merely an image. Ray Brown in *The Clampers* has a battle cry for his troops: "Loads of clamps today, yeah?" Brown is the ultimate officious little man. The more we hate him, the more he loves his job. He is the school prefect. He knows we snivel behind his back, he knows we regard him with contempt, but does he mind? He only minds if we stop.

So why not stop? Arguing the toss with Ray Brown and his ilk is about as fruitful as trying to convince Robin Cook that he may not be 100 per cent correct: 100 per cent of the time. We rant at Brown and his kind because they trigger something deep in most of us. Our ranting is shameful and useless: wardens are, after all, just doing a job. They may seem unjust and arbitrary, but so is the jobs market or the Second Division relegation battle. No, we rant at the clammer because he is our formative years come back to haunt us.

## Swipe to keep wardens away

London borough is to introduce what it claims is the world's first credit-card parking permit scheme within the next two months, says Joe Warwick, Hammer-smith and Fulham council, in West London, issues 35,000 parking permits annually — £50 for a private one, £400 for a business permit. Now it plans to introduce the scheme in an attempt to make changing vehicle details on permits easier for residents and combat an estimated £25,000 of fraud a year.

Could credit cards make parking easier?

to be processed. "We hope the new system will save residents from expensive delays," says a council spokesman. A week of waiting can cost drivers more than £24 in tickets, but some Fulham residents claim they have waited as long as a month — at a cost of around £96. The new scheme aims to prevent this by issuing permits with a magnetic strip that sits under the windscreen where a conventional paper permit would be. It can be inserted



The likes of Clamper's Ray Brown may get fewer victims

into machines outside the local town halls to update vehicle data. "The machines will dispense temporary permits 24 hours a day until a new and updated credit card is dispatched," says the spokesman. Current paper permits can easily be reproduced on a

colour photocopier, says the council. It hopes the new cards with ultraviolet markings will help to reduce forgeries. The AA and RAC welcomed the scheme, but the RAC gave warning: "It will need careful watching as there will inevitably be gremlins."

## Trained drivers prove streets ahead

More and more company car drivers are taking training courses to improve their road safety, the Times-Lease Plan annual competition is showing, writes Tony Dawe.

The latest heats of the company car driver of the year competition, at Elstree, Hertfordshire, produced some of the highest quality performances yet, according to Garry Hyde, sales manager of DriveTech, which provides the examiners.

"We can tell within minutes by the way a driver handles the car if he has been on a training course, and many taking part showed the skills and ability associated with courses," he said.

To underline his words, the winners of the two Elstree heats had both undergone training. Neil Mitchell, of Hampton, Surrey, a project

manager with AHS Emstar, had been on a Rospa course. He sailed through the five exercises with only a little difficulty. "I really enjoyed the braking exercise," he said. "I might have hit the odd cone but the examiner was more impressed with the speed I reached before braking."

Steve Waddilove, of Chester, the second winner at Elstree, is a member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists. He drives more than 40,000 miles a year, as national accounts manager with Merloni Domestic Appliances.

"I took the advanced test because I was doing so many miles a year that statistically I was more at risk of having an accident," he said.

Both men now go to the finals at Silverstone on June 26, where they have the chance of winning a weekend for two at the Italian Grand Prix.



Winner Neil Mitchell: "I may have hit a few cones"

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UNIT TRUST PRICES 51

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**SAVINGS GAME 63**  
Soccer cashes in with supporters' savings accounts

# WEEKEND MONEY

STILL GOING WELL 62

Stella Shamon picks Shell as her share of the month



## Dividend tax changes hit pensioners

Wide-ranging reforms of the taxation of dividends are leaving savers confused and could leave some of the poorest, including pensioners, much worse off. Some 300,000 non-taxpaying elderly people with small shareholdings will see their income reduced. As the table below shows, dividend income of £100 at present will be reduced to £80.

Meanwhile, other savers will find the task of calculating the tax payable on their investments more complex than ever. Those saving in tax-free schemes such as Peps and Isas will see the value of the tax-free concession diminished.

The situation results from changes made by the Chancellor in the Budget last July, measures that will have an impact on millions who currently suspect nothing. The changes were made necessary by the Government's wish to raise revenue but, at the same time, fulfil its pledge not to raise the rates of income tax.

Many commentators believed that Gordon Brown chose to make the changes to dividends purely because the

**Magnus Grimond explains the Chancellor's craftiest and most confusing tax increase and offers some advice on its main consequences**

preparation of their self-assessment tax returns. Some of the key questions are answered below.

**Q What actually happens next April?**

**A** From the start of the next tax year (April 6, 1999), the tax credit attached to ordinary dividends is halved to 10 per cent. In the past non-taxpayers have been able to reclaim this deduction. But, in future only those who hold shares and unit trusts in personal equity plans (Peps) and individual savings accounts (Isas) will have the right to reclaim the money. Even so they will still see their income cut by a ninth. Pep holders will retain the right to reclaim the tax credit even when Isas are introduced. But the concession will be removed entirely in the 2003-04 tax year.

**Q So the change is bad news for investors?**

**A** Yes and no. It is good news if you invest in companies that have large foreign earnings, like BAT Industries or Unilever. At present advance corporation tax (ACT) is due when a company pays an ordinary dividend. It can then be set against the company's main tax bill payable after the year end, but largely only to offset UK earnings. Big foreign earners can end up paying large amounts of ACT which cannot be reclaimed. The ending of ACT will stop these mountains of overpaid tax building up.

But most investors feel the benefit more directly through the tax credits attached to dividends. The presence of a

tax credit means that lower or basic rate taxpayers have nothing further to pay the Inland Revenue on that slug of dividend income. Bigger earners need only account for the difference between 20 per cent and the higher rate, currently 40 per cent.

To keep Labour's tax promises, that will not change, despite the confusing cut in the level of the credit from 20 per cent to 10 per cent. But the odd result is that Labour, the party of the underprivileged, is maintaining the incomes of the very and the relatively wealthy, while hitting poorer and retired people who depend on investment income.

**Q Is this going to mean complications when I work out my tax calculations?**

**A** The short answer is yes. In contriving to leave most people in the same position as they were before, the new tax regime has introduced a confusing array of new tax rates. The examples in the table clarify the situation.

**Q Will there be any point in holding shares or unit trusts within an Isa?**

**A** That is debatable and depends largely on your tax status. If you pay tax at the basic or lower rate, a tax exempt vehicle will leave your income little better off. The 10 per cent tax credit will hardly be worth collecting, even on a full £5,000 Isa investment. You should certainly avoid funds that still levy additional Pep or Isa management charges, as you could end up being out of pocket. For higher-rate taxpayers there are still probably enough income advantages to make an Isa or

Pep look worthwhile, although, again, charges could scuff most of your income.

**Q Will shares be put at a tax disadvantage?**

**A** In certain cases, yes. It will still be possible to reclaim or not pay the 20 per cent tax deduction on interest-bearing investments, such as building society accounts, bonds and gilts (government bonds). That will almost certainly make interest-paying accounts or bonds more attractive than shares to non-taxpayers seeking income. It should also mean that qualifying corporate bond Peps and Isas will have a significant yield advantage over their equity-based brethren.

**Q Are there any other quirks of the new tax regime I should know about?**

**A** There are one or two more obscure consequences of the new treatment of dividends. For instance, if your penchant is for investing in foreign shares, you should benefit. There are also quite severe consequences for anyone who has set up a discretionary trust, often used by people making wills to provide for beneficiaries, particularly children. The rules are complicated and expert advice is essential. Finally, if you are part of a family or an entrepreneur who effectively controls and runs your own small company, you will find the tax changes have increased the advantages of paying yourself dividends rather than a salary. In the past, directors who paid themselves this way had the benefit of avoiding both national insurance and the pay as you earn tax scheme.



Tax credits came in when striking miners caused power cuts blacking out much of the country

but had to make quarterly payments of tax. The Chancellor's concessions for smaller companies mean that shareholders will pay no tax and be exempt from the new system

of paying mainstream tax every quarter. So while many people's tax bills will be left unchanged by the dividend changes, there will be many others who will

see their income fall. You have until next April to do something about it and, as with almost anything to do with tax, unless it is very straightforward, get professional advice.

### THE TAX CHANGE AND YOU

Now	£	From April 6, 1999	£
Non tax-payer			
Dividend	80	10% tax credit	80
20% tax credit recoverable (£20)	20	Irrecoverable (£3.88)	nil
Gross income	100		80
Tax payable	nil		nil
Net income	100		80
40% taxpayer			
Dividend	80		80
Tax credit	20		8.88
Gross income	100		88.88
Tax payable @ 40%	40	Tax payable at 32.5% less tax credit	8.88
less tax credit	20		20.00
Still to pay	20		28.88
Net income	80		60
Pep and Isa holders			
Dividend	80	10% tax credit recoverable	8.88
20% tax credit recoverable	20		88.88
Gross income	100		nil
Tax payable	nil		88.88
Net income	100		88.88

Source: Deloitte & Touche

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Susan Emmett on the saga of Northern Rock account changes

# OFT move on Rock's 'cavalier' saver switch

Northern Rock, the Newcastle bank, is being investigated by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) following an account restructuring operation which was carried out without warning. The OFT criticised the bank yesterday for denying savers the freedom to move money without notice after the changes.

The bank said it "regrets" that it failed to keep to its pledge to notify all savers before the changes were made. It stressed that savers must serve their notice period before moving their money, despite allowing some 89 savers to move their money immediately.

John Bridgeman, the director general of the Fair Trading, said: "The complaints about Northern Rock's restructuring of accounts raises questions about what appears to be a cavalier attitude to savers. Customers do not expect banks to change arbitrarily the nature of a product, lock them into less favourable terms and conditions, fail to give adequate warning of any changes and to treat some account-holders differently from others."

Earlier this year, the anger generated among investors by another account change prompted the Northern Rock to promise to write to all its customers.

However, many customers failed to receive a letter telling them of the latest restructure until after the changes came into effect.

Northern Rock said: "We regret that not everyone received the information on time. We are looking into it. It is to be hoped that they will receive the information more speedily in the future as we investigate what went wrong."

Northern Rock used a cheaper mailing service from Royal Mail to post between 800,000 and 850,000 letters dated April 17. However, as the service aims to deliver within seven working days, it was unlikely from the start that all Northern Rock customers would receive notification before the changes took place on April 23.

Northern Rock said it was aware of the timescale involved and thought that Mailsort 3 was the appropriate vehicle to get information to its customers.

The bank said it would backdate the notice period to April 23 for people who received late letters.

The Saunders family are



Leaving the bank: Chris Saunders with Ben, 16, and Joanna, 12, who lose £1 a day

one of many who received their letter nearly a week after the changes were made. Christopher Saunders, a computer consultant from Sevenoaks, Kent, chose to invest his children's savings in the Northern Rock's 90-day account because of the high rates on offer. Because the savings arise from legacies and covenants and the children cannot have access to the money until they are 18, the notice period is immaterial.

However, the recent changes mean that Ben, 16, and Joanna, 12, are losing about £1 a day.

Both accounts have been put on notice, but unlike many savers who wish to move their money to the more attractive instant access account, Ben and Joanna will have to find another bank because the instant service will not accept trustee accounts or investors aged under 16.

The change means this will be the fourth new Northern Rock account the children have had in little over 12 months.

Mr Saunders said: "There is no way I will put any more money in the Northern Rock again and I doubt if any of my family will."

Rachael, his eldest daughter, who is just 18 and has now received her inheritance, has transferred her savings to Standard Bank already.

## A neat Isa sidestep is in view

Benchmarking, the business of setting acceptable levels of charges for investments and pensions, may not at first appear the most thrilling of subjects. But it could soon be the source of much entertainment. Next Monday, the Government will announce the benchmark charges for the new Isas. These are expected to be about half of those currently payable on many Peps. Sit back to enjoy the sight of financial services groups attempting to justify current fees, while, at the same time, endeavouring not to annoy the Treasury, lest they be excluded from the Isa market. Their torture should compensate, in part, for the unjustifiable amounts they have in the past deducted from your investments to pay for their often substandard services.

### Scrooge Brown

CAST your mind back to July 1997 and the Chancellor's decision to abolish the dividend tax credit. This was an arcane but valuable tax concession that allowed pension funds and other non-taxpayers to reclaim the tax deducted from dividends. It was an underhand measure that left us all poorer, although Gordon Brown piously portrayed the measure as a boost to industry. Ten months later, we are all still reconciling ourselves to the painful effects of the change. Unless we can find an extra 8 per cent or so to pay into our pensions, we face a lower income in retirement.

But there is one group that already has little enough money for its old



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH  
Personal Finance Editor

age, which will be further impoverished by the Chancellor's callous tinkering. About 300,000 non-taxpayers pensioners with tiny shareholdings will be, from next April, deprived of a fifth of their dividend income as a result of the ending of the right to reclaim the tax credit (see page 52). In total they will lose £20 million in refunds, an average of £74 each.

These individuals have total earnings below £5,410, if they are under 75, and £5,600 if they are older. The phrase every penny counts has seldom been more appropriate. Averse to asking the State for help, they have made a lifetime habit of the self-sufficiency which Mr Brown wishes us all to espouse. The cost of restoring the concession would be small. The Chancellor should act immediately to amend the Finance Act. Or we may conclude that it does not think so highly of thrift as he claims.

### OFT fights back

MORTGAGE lenders should be alarmed by the Office of Fair Trading investigation into the Northern Rock's rate changes. The move suggests that watchdogs may no longer be

prepared to see institutions treat their existing customers with disdain, reserving the best deals for newcomers. The Northern Rock summarily altered the terms of its accounts, obliging savers to wait for several months before changing to a new top rate account. In the same way, some lenders exclude existing borrowers from the pick of new mortgage offers, although, paradoxically, this is one crime of which Northern Rock is not guilty.

Most banks and building societies are content to see thousands of loyal customers pay the standard variable rate of 8.60 per cent or more, so subsidising new borrowers who are enjoying rates 2-3 per cent lower. Only if a longstanding borrower threatens to defect to a competitor, will he be wooed back by an advantageous fixed-rate offer. There is scant reward for constancy.

The OFT may also turn its scrutiny on the redemption penalties that prevent borrowers who have benefited to another lender. American homebuyers tolerate no such onerous checks on their freedom to negotiate loan deals. Why should we?

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Hazel Spink assesses the latest venture from a big fund manager

# Jupiter goes into the unknown.



Like the Galileo spacecraft, Jupiter is going into a different orbit with its new fund

Jupiter, the top-performing fund manager, is making its first foray into fixed-interest unit trusts, with the launch of a fully Repable, corporate-bond fund. Best known for the management of equity-based funds, Jupiter's move has raised eyebrows among investment experts. Initially, the fund will be 100 per cent invested in corporate bonds, with a 15 per cent holding overseas in countries such as Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Turkey and Greece. The fund has the potential to invest in convertibles and preference shares but will not do so at first. Aimed at cautious investors and those seeking higher levels of income, the fund has a projected yield of 7 per cent. Jupiter argues that it is well placed to manage a fixed-interest securities unit trust because it has substantial exposure to the bond markets via its institutional division. But its lack of experience in fixed-interest funds for private investors has attracted some criticism.

money to the issuer of the bond and in return receives a fixed amount of interest, commonly referred to as a coupon, and in addition the issuer promises to repay the original investment, known as the face value of the bond, on the maturity date. Corporate bonds do not aim to deliver capital growth, although investors should get their capital back, in addition to enjoying a relatively high income.

Funds which invest predominantly in bonds issued by the Government, known as gilts, are the safest because it is almost inconceivable that the UK Government would default on its loans. Bonds issued by large UK blue chip companies are also relatively low-risk. However, bonds offered by smaller companies and foreign groups are generally lower quality and higher-risk. But, they do offer a higher yield because they carry a higher level of risk and need to

**HIGH OR MISS**

attract investors. Funds investing in pseudo bonds such as preference shares and convertibles are halfway between equities and bonds, and are also potentially riskier but generally higher yielding. So, put simply, funds investing in convertibles, preference shares, small or foreign companies are likely to be higher-risk.

There is nothing wrong with funds that adopt a higher-risk approach in order to provide people with a higher yield as long as the investors are aware of the risks. Defending Jupiter's decision to invest overseas, the sales and marketing director Steve Glynn said: "We will only invest in very strong organisations where the potential for default is limited. In addition, transactions will be done through the eurobond market and denominated in dollars and marks."

He said that when choosing UK corporate bonds, the company would be looking for an average single A rating. Examples are Cable & Wireless, British Gas, Railtrack or PowerGen.

The research analyst, BEST Investment, criticises the fund for its above-average charges. The fund has a 4 per cent initial charge and a 1 per cent annual management fee. Jason Hollands, a director of BEST Investment, said: "Our advice would be to go for a bond with low charges. We particularly like Legal & General's fund which has no initial charge and a 0.5 per cent annual management charge."

Mr Glynn said: "Our charges are pretty average."

Score: ★★★ Products graded from ★ (poor), to ★★★★★ (outstanding).

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Asian Smaller Markets	8.3.93	-26.6	8/66	-17.2
Emerging Companies	8.4.85	+872.6	1/28	+95.4
European Growth	8.11.86	+374.0	3/12	+166.0
Far Eastern Growth	8.11.86	+267.6	1/15	+10.1
International Growth	25.1.83	-778.0	3/16	-98.8
Japanese Growth	30.11.91	-6.4	7/53	-34.0
Latin American Growth	31.1.95	+35.9	16/25	-
UK Growth	24.10.87	+537.4	1/24	+156.8
<b>Income Accumulator Fund</b>				
US Dollar Bond Class	27.1.97	+11.0	17/69	-
International Bond Class	27.1.97	+10.2	29/156	-
US Dollar Money Market Class	27.1.97	+6.4	28/89	-
sterling Bond Class	27.1.97	+24.3	1/87	-
sterling Money Market Class	27.1.97	+8.0	21/70	-

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Work may be more fun than fun but, at the same time, everyone wants to retire early. This wish to depart from the stresses and strains of the workplace is not new. This week, it was claimed that Lord Nelson attempted to secure a £200-a-year pension from the Admiralty in 1794 by claiming that damage to his right eye had left him blind. He was not successful, though he later received a pension for the loss of his right arm.

# Don't turn a blind eye to planning for retirement

## YOU AND YOUR PENSION

Helen Pridham spells out some of the considerations for anyone who intends to draw their pension early



Nelson sought an early pension: the Admiralty would not have it

Two hundred years later, according to a recent survey by Income Data Services, the employment researcher, up to 80 per cent of employees are leaving their jobs before their company's "normal retirement age".

Most are going before age 60 and some as early as 54. However, not everyone who takes early retirement wants to stop working entirely. They may wish to take up part-time work to supplement their income or because they want to stay active.

The Government is intending to make it easier for members of company pension schemes to stagger their retirement in future. At present, you have to take formal retirement before you can draw a pension. And if you start drawing your main pension, you also have to take the extra pension from any additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) too.

Under Inland Revenue proposals put out in February, employees would be allowed to start taking their retirement benefits at any age between 50 and 75 without actually having to retire. They would also be able to opt to take the benefits from AVCs earlier or later than the main scheme benefits. Members of money-purchase pension schemes would be allowed to postpone the purchase of an annuity. Such flexibility is already available with a personal pension.

will be affected in several ways. First, you will normally have contributed less and, if it is a company scheme, so will your employer. Secondly, it will have accumulated less investment growth. Thirdly, the annuity you buy will pay out less pension because you are younger so payments will have to be spread over a longer period.

Figures from Legal & General, which assume £100 a month is being contributed to a pension plan started at age 30 and that the investment is growing 9 per cent a year, show the fund will be worth a third less if retirement takes place at 60 instead of 65. The reduction in pension would be even greater. For a man it would be 42 per cent less, a woman would suffer a greater decrease because of her longer life expectancy.

The moral of the story for anyone hoping to retire early is to plan ahead carefully. Unless you have been a member of a good final-salary occupational pension scheme with favourable early retirement terms for long enough, you should start making extra savings well in advance.

Members of final-salary or money-purchase company schemes can boost their pension benefits with AVCs. But remember to make sure there is no early retirement penalty under the AVC scheme.

If you have a personal pension, you should consider topping up your current contributions to the maximum permitted for your age (17.5 per cent of earnings if you are aged 35 or under, 20 per cent for ages 36-45, 25 per cent for ages 46-50, 30 per cent for ages 51-55, 35 per cent for ages 56-60 and 40 per cent for ages 60 or over). If you have any extra funds available, you could also look into making up for previous shortfalls. Personal pension contributions can be backdated for up to seven years.

Mr Scott Hopkins said: "This can be a very attractive concept even if you are about to retire, especially if you are a higher-rate taxpayer. You may be able to put in, say, an extra £10,000 by mopping up previous allowances. You could do this one day and get £4,000 back in tax relief. Then the next day, so to speak, you could withdraw a tax-free lump sum of £2,500 and buy an annuity with the remaining £7,500 for a net cost of just £3,500." However, there will also be costs involved, which will need to be considered.

As you approach your retirement you may also need to re-examine the investment strategy of your pension plan to ensure that you are not exposed to too much risk.

Next week: Pre-retirement investment planning for your pension

# Tigers not out of the jungle

George Soros has bet against the pound again. This time, there are no ghosts of London in 1992. Traders think it an obvious move, which makes you wonder why sterling has not fallen further already and why markets are relaxed about interest rates.



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

The real spectre, however, is of Bangkok one year ago and riots in Jakarta now. There is dispute over the role of Mr Soros's Quantum Fund in what proved the most destructive speculative attack of all time, causing untold misery, ruin, starvation and death. Hedge funds were surely around for the first big raid on the baht 12 months ago. Only at the turn of July, once Thai reserves had run out, did the baht start a six-month collapse, setting off slides in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and, coincidentally or not, the mighty yen. By then, the IMF had failed. In October raiders attacked Hong Kong, where the currency board saw them off, and blitzed Korea, which caught up at literally ruinous speed.

By April investors were offered new or revived funds to ride back with the "tigers". Korea, it was said, was restructuring astonishingly fast, as Japan had in its day. But in May Indonesia's failure to cope with the impossible shock of a random 75 per cent devaluation is again spreading gloom. Against the impact on foreign debts, banks and real wages, President Suharto's battle with the IMF seems insignificant. Share prices have relapsed back to their nadir in Seoul and are not faring much better

in Hong Kong or Kuala Lumpur. Markets often see the worst of a crash early but the economic injury takes years to mend, especially when banks are engulfed in bad debts.

The World Bank now thinks reform will take two to four years to revive "tiger" country. Jim Mellon, value-chasing founder of Hong Kong's Regent Pacific funds, claims: "Even those countries which are under IMF tutelage are just swallowing the medicine and spitting it out into the nearest plant pot."

Oddly, Mr Mellon now backs a similar tactic to Mark Coombs of ANZ Investment Bank who has just launched the open-ended ANZ Asian Recovery Fund with a minimum \$25,000 entry. Rather than being sunk into seemingly cheap equities, this will chase opportunities, also picking high-yield public sector debt, companies' non-performing convertible loans or short-term currency plays from the wreckage.

The great warning to investors is Japan. Eight years after a less cataclysmic crash, Japan's financial sector and economy are still floundering. Over the past year, the Nikkei share index has fallen a quarter. Japan is proving that recovery can take an awful long time, just as it taught us earlier that shares can stay overvalued for years on end before Nemesis finally strikes.

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# Drawdown pensions road to ruin

Plans to produce a single currency in Europe are set to worsen the growing scandal over income drawdown schemes which are bought by one in three people retiring on personal pensions.

Experts are concerned that the Government is allowing thousands of pensioners to take too much money from their savings under the controversial schemes introduced by the Conservatives three years ago. These allowed people at retirement to defer the compulsory purchase of a traditional annuity until they reached 75.

Limits on how much pensioners can safely withdraw from their funds are set by the Government Actuary Department. Critics claim that the maximum level has been too high, preventing many people from being able to rebuild their savings.

For example, someone retiring in July 1995 with £200,000 in a fund could have drawn down a maximum of £20,600 a year. But by last November they would have been unable to buy the annuity they could have had two years previously. This is because the remaining savings would have had to have grown by an astonishing 22.5 per cent, a high rate even in recent buoyant stock markets.

Most pension company funds have done well to achieve 20 per cent since 1995, and observers say a sensible level of drawdown would have been around half the maximum. Experts predict this discrepancy can only get worse as plans

for a single European currency accelerate. British investors are likely to achieve lower returns on their shares as the UK and other European economies start to converge. Pensioners with drawdown schemes rely on the stockmarket to regenerate their fund.

Theodora Zemek, head of fixed interest at M&G, the fund manager, said: "Income drawdown assumptions are looking dangerous at the moment. People will be well advised to take a smaller amount and should make sure they know what growth assumptions are being used."

Philip Booth, senior lecturer in actuarial science at City University, said: "If the Government Actuary assumptions are not changed people aged 75 could find they have taken too much from their pension funds and will have to take an annuity that is insufficient for their needs."

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Patrick Collinson takes an in-depth look at pensions from former employers and

# Pensions frozen in time

Pension transfers are the bogeyman of the financial services world, a byword for the £1 billion rip-off of unwitting pension buyers in the 1980s and early 1990s.

Yet hundreds of thousands of people change jobs every year and are left with the dilemma of what to do with their pension. The pensions industry is now terrified of transfers after stelling out billions of pounds in compensation. But this week one leading pensions adviser claimed that now may be the best time in years for people to think about transferring.

The claim comes from Johnstone Douglas, a Croydon pension adviser, which says that a raft of technical factors have pushed up transfer values — the cash amount a final-salary scheme will transfer to another pension scheme — to levels up to one third higher than a year ago. It also claims that the opportunity to benefit from these inflated transfer values may last only for one year before the rules are changed and values decrease again.

Johnstone Douglas gives an example of a man aged 50 with ten years' service with his former employer, who obtained a transfer value of £34,592 compared with just £25,983 a year ago, a gain of 33 per cent. Meanwhile, his guaranteed pension will have gone up only in line with inflation — less than 3 per cent.

Nigel Chambers, deputy managing director, said: "Anyone considering a pension transfer now or in the future should review their situation as soon as possible to get maximum value."

Other advisers confirm that transfer values have risen sharply in the past 12 months. Steve Patterson, of Intelligent Pensions, said: "We have certainly noticed an improvement, in some cases of up to 25 per cent, in transfer values being offered."

A transfer value is not calculated by looking at how much you and your employer have paid into the pension scheme and what it is worth now. Instead, it is an extremely complex calculation which projects how much money will be needed now to produce a fixed sum at the date of retirement. The calculation uses the dividend yield on the stock market as its guide to future income. When the stock market soars, dividend yields fall, so the amount of money needed to be put aside to produce a future income has to be



Getting a decent transfer value for a frozen pension can be as big a lottery as driving across a frozen lake

increased. Hey presto, the transfer value jumps.

Transfer values have also been turbo-charged by new Pension Act rules which assume that all the money has been invested in equities, when in reality some would have been in lower-performing investments such as bonds or property. It is this area of calculation that is under review by actuaries. If altered, it could have a downward impact on transfer values.

Johnstone Douglas also argues that changes to advance corporation tax, encouraging companies to buy back shares rather than pay out dividends, is temporarily depressing dividend yields. Again, this has the impact of artificially boosting transfer values.

But pension providers are cautious

about recommending a transfer of your old pension just because transfer values have risen. John Hylands, general manager at Standard Life, said: "There is no denying that transfer values are bigger and some people have enjoyed a disproportionate increase. These people might find a window of opportunity, but I wouldn't go further than that. No one would suggest there is a transfer bonanza beckoning. What you are swapping is a promised future benefit for a 'take your chance on investment returns in future' arrangement."

Axa Sun Life is also nervous about recommending transfers. Steve Muir, marketing manager, said: "Be extremely cautious about the whole concept of transferring. Just because a

transfer value is high doesn't mean you are any better off. If you take a transfer now, you may well be putting your money in at the top of the stock market, therefore it doesn't produce the gains expected."

Transfer of a pension is probably the most complex financial transaction most people will undertake, so seeing an expert pension adviser is essential. Not all financial advisers are authorised to do transfers, which requires a special permit from the Personal Investment Authority.

Remember, the only possible reason for transferring your old pension is if it is more than likely to produce better returns. For many people, the best option will be to leave it alone.

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## Choosing the best option

So what are the options for anyone with a pension left at a former employer?

■ Leave it there.

Leaving a pension "frozen" at your last employer is not always a bad idea. Its value will rise in line with the retail price index, up to a maximum of 5 per cent per year, plus it may offer spouse's and death benefits.

■ Transfer to a personal pension.

Your former employer provides you with a transfer value which is then transferred to an insurance company. The value of the pension is determined by

how successfully the insurance company manages the money. Its key advantage is flexibility. Scottish Equitable's Steve Cameron said: "It gives extensive flexibility as to when you can draw benefits and offers phased retirement and income drawdown options."

■ Transfer to a "Section 32 Buyout".

This is an individual policy which operates under the occupational pension scheme rules. Its main advantage is that it offers greater access to tax-free cash on retirement than a personal pension.

■ Transfer to your new employer's scheme.

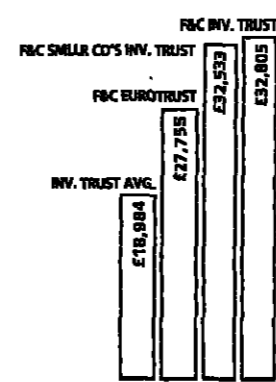
An employer will offer either a defined benefit (final salary) or defined contribution (money purchase) pension scheme. A transfer allows you to buy a number of years' service in your new final salary scheme, although schemes are not obliged to accept transfers. A transfer into a money purchase scheme will simply add to the pot of money invested on your behalf, but has the advantage of consolidating all your pension investments under one roof.

If you switch into a personal pension, you can still join your new employer's final salary scheme, but you will not be able to make additional contributions.

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gives advice on when it is right to transfer and when it is madness



Play your cards right and you could have an enjoyable retirement; make the wrong move and poverty is the result

## The do's and don'ts

### THE DON'TS

■ Don't transfer from your existing occupational pension scheme into which both you and your employer are currently making contributions. No private pension scheme can match the benefits provided by your employer. A transfer should only be considered if you have left your employer.

■ Don't transfer from a public sector pension scheme, such as the nurses' or the teachers' scheme, even if you left their employment several years ago. They are the Rolls-Royce of pension schemes and are guaranteed against inflation no matter how much it rises in future. Unlike other schemes they also allow "linking" of different service years if someone returns to teaching

or nursing after several years' absence. Companies such as Axa Sun Life place a blanket ban on accepting transfers from these schemes, in the knowledge that the benefits cannot be matched.

■ Don't transfer from a pseudo-public sector scheme, such as the Mineworkers' or Water schemes. Axa Sun Life's Steve Muir said: "These offer an extremely generous range of benefits which are difficult to match elsewhere."

■ Don't transfer if you are less than ten years to retirement, unless the benefits of income drawdown (avoiding low annuity rates by keeping your pension pot invested) outweigh the benefits of a secure payout.

■ Don't transfer if you are averse to risk. Money placed in a personal pension will be subject to the rises — and falls — of the stock market, whereas a "defined benefit" final salary scheme offers guaranteed benefits.

■ Don't transfer if you have just a small amount of money accrued in your former pension. "It's only worthwhile considering a transfer if the amount is over £10,000," said Steve Patterson of Intelligent Pensions. The cost of a transfer is usually about 5 per cent of the total pension pot, paid out in commission to the adviser and charges by the pension provider.

■ Don't transfer without checking the death benefits of the former scheme, which may not be matched in a personal pension without having to buy a life insurance policy.

■ Do go to a specially licensed independent financial adviser. ■ Do demand a transfer value analysis. This is a computerised calculation which allows you to compare the benefits of your frozen pension with the alternatives. It also gives a "critical yield", a figure usually in the range of 7 to 11 per cent, which indicates how fast an alternative scheme will have to grow to match the benefits in your old pension. If the critical yield is 8 per cent or less, then a transfer may be worth considering.

■ Do consider your retirement options. Are you intending to retire early? Check if the scheme to which you are switching has the flexibility to handle your requirements. ■ Do check on the financial position of your old scheme. If it is in surplus (it has more assets than pension liabilities) it may be advisable to stay with the scheme.

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# If markets look flaky there is profit in bonds

Stock market investment or savings account? Growth or income? The choice is yours. But if as a baffled investor you want to maximise your income but are not sure about how much of a risk you want to run, then a middle of the road product might well look appealing.

**Clare Stewart suggests going down the middle of the road — for safety's sake**

With-profit bonds are one such vehicle, with one foot in the equity market and one in the less exciting area of an investment paying guaranteed annual bonuses.

Despite the record-breaking run of the UK stock market over recent months, there is concern that a correction may be looming, and more people are looking to reduce their exposure.

Interest in with-profit bonds is coming from two groups, said Patrick Connolly, an investment director at Chartwell Investment Management in Bath. "There are equity investors who are looking for a degree of security and people who have had money in guaranteed income investments, but who are seeing long-term interest rates moving down."

Whether younger people looking to put money aside for longer-term growth, or retired people looking for low-risk options.

Straightforward as they may sound, with-profit bonds are not for everyone. They are medium to long-term investments, so you should be prepared to lock up your money for at least five years. You can usually withdraw up to 7½ per cent of your initial capital annually, but early encashment of the bond is expensive.

It is also important to look at the small print before plunging in. Chartwell's *With-Profit Bond Guide*, the latest edition of which has recently been published, highlights a number of areas to be aware of.

the bond as well as annual bonus rates. "Investors get enticed into funds for the wrong reasons, such as high headline bonus rates," says Mr Connolly, at Chartwell.

As the final bonus can add up to more than half of the total sum paid out, evidence of past performance is important. A high annual bonus rate may look tempting, but it might be a means to lure in new business, rather than indicating a strongly performing fund.

Based on an assessment of past performance, and the financial strength of the companies backing with-profit bonds, Chartwell says Prudential tops the list given its strong performance. All bonds of five years or more are showing annualised returns of 11 per cent. Others recommended include Scottish Widows, Scottish Equitable and Royal & Sun Alliance.

Not all advisers warn to the attractions of with-profit bonds. They are "deceptively simple," says John Turton, the head of pensions at BEST Investment, the research and advisory group. They are often sold by default because they are easy for advisers to sell, but not necessarily the best option.

He says: "I don't like with-profit bonds because they show average returns at best. While you can get 7 to 8 per cent in bonuses, you can get that even on certain deposit accounts." The yield from bonds over five to ten years may be less than a similar investment in corporate bonds, a managed equity fund or even unit trusts.

Mr Turton suggests that there are low-risk alternatives for investors which do not tie up money in the same way as bonds, which may have to be held for ten to 20 years in order to show good returns.

The Chartwell *With-Profit Bond Guide* (6th Edition) is available free. Telephone 01225-446 556, or write to 9 Kingmead Square, Bath BA1 2AB.

With-profit bonds are frequently marketed as low-risk investments. Money is invested in equities, property and fixed-interest securities, so returns reflect the stock market movements as well as the bond market and interest rates. The guarantee of an annual bonus provides an added attraction, particularly if the stock market falls back. On top of which, with-profit bonds will return capital and offer the promise of a discretionary bonus on maturity.

"I like them because they give a pretty low-risk exposure to the equity and bond markets, and while bonuses have been coming down, you are still getting around 8 per cent net annually, which is a pretty good return for a low-risk investment," says Mark Bolland, at Chamberlain de Broe, independent financial advisers.

They are flexible enough to suit a range of investors.

Commission is another important area. There are concerns that advisers may be tempted by high commission rates to recommend certain bonds, even those with a poor record.

Some advisers will forgo all or part of their commission, so leaving the capital invested intact. For example, Mr Bolland, says that commission is wholly rebated for advisory clients, because they already pay a fee for investment advice.

Chartwell says look closely at the past performance of

Conal Gregory explains how you can buy genuine antiques without being cheated

# Learn the tricks of the trade

Antiques are big business. Millions tune into programmes such as the BBC's *Antiques Roadshow*, and the annual turnover of the antiques trade is estimated at about £2.2 billion.

But the huge profits can attract fakers and copyists as an *Antiques Roadshow* expert found out to his cost last week. A sketch that he thought was by the French Surrealist Francis Picabia, and worth about £6,000, turned out to have been produced, along with 69 others, by a Hampshire bus driver and sold for £50 each.

With a difference in price between £50 and £6,000, the profit that can be made in the antiques business attracts many fraudsters, peddling fakes and distressed reproductions to the unsuspecting. As a result, the fear of being hoodwinked haunts anyone searching for antiques at street markets, craft stalls in village halls, in the local antique shop or on the viewing day of a forthcoming auction.

Here Weekend Money explains how to avoid being cheated:

**Do business with a recognised dealer.**

Look for membership of a leading trade association which has a strict code of practice and will be bound by a free conciliation or arbitration service in the event of any dispute. The leading dealers are members of the British Antique Dealers' Association (BADA), established in 1918 (0171-589 4128), London & Provincial Antique Dealers' Association (0171-823 3511), which was founded in 1974 and has more than 700 members, and the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association (0171-439 3118). Lists of members will be sent on application, including details of their specialities.

If you buy from an antique dealer, you have the full protection of consumer law. However, because an auction house in the eyes of the law sells to non-consumers, the same protection does not apply. That is why auction catalogues contain several pages of small print disclaiming, for instance, any descriptions they give and the condition of any lot.

If you can prove an auction purchase is a deliberate fake, then most salerooms will refund your money.

Some auctioneers also act as principals and sell goods in which they have an interest. It



From street markets to antique shops, the antique trade is now huge business with an annual turnover of more than £2 billion

is, therefore, advisable to ask for as full information as possible at the pre-sale viewing in order to establish the situation.

**Attend antiques fairs.**

Items on sale at the leading fairs are vetted for authenticity. Forthcoming fairs include the Grosvenor House Art & Antiques Fair (June 11-20), International Ceramics Fair at Park Lane Hotel (June 12-15), Antiquarian Book Fair (June 4-7, Olympia 2) and Olympia Fine Art and Antiques Fairs (June 4-14 and November 16-22).

**Seek out free advice.**

Take paintings or other antiques to reputable auctioneers for complimentary identification and valuation. Leading public institutions hold open times where an appointment is advisable: British Museum,

Monday-Friday 2.30-4.30pm and occasionally Saturdays 10am-1pm; the National Gallery, every Wednesday 2.30-5pm; the Victoria and Albert Museum, on the first Tuesday of each month 2.30-5pm. They will not give valuations but will advise on restoration.

Many local galleries and museums, as well as reputable dealers, will also assist. Alternatively, post colour photographs (including underneath) with dimensions, details of marks (important in ceramics and silver) and any known history.

**Ask if repairs or restoration have been undertaken.**

Even a minor chip to an 18th-century porcelain piece can take 20-30 per cent off the value. Some reasonable wear and tear is acceptable, such as replaced feet on a William and Mary desk or clock (1689-1702).

Yet a glass plate in an antique mirror should not have been changed. Look for tell-tale signs of alteration, such as the original handle holes and staining which does not continue on the underside.

**Obtain a full receipt.**

Have the work of art fully described, including size, material used, approximate date and whether any repair has taken place. Ask a saleroom for a condition report, which is fuller than the catalogue entry.

**Improve your knowledge.**

Lectures are regularly offered by the leading auctioneers. Sotheby's, for instance, has several programmes including field trips to historic houses. The Friends of the BADA have a lively programme.

**Watch the small print.**

"Attributed to" means proba-

bly a work by the artist but "studio of" indicates by an unknown hand in the artist's studio, while "circle" is by someone closely associated with the named artist but not necessarily his pupil.

**Disputes and refunds.**

Ask the auction house to resell the object or request a refund from the dealer. If there is a problem, refer to their trade body. For dealers, you can also approach the trading standards officer of the local authority, who may bring in recognised experts.

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ROS DRINGWATER

The process of buying a tranquil property in France can be eased by UK lenders and advisers geared up to help

## Britons buy in the sun

The pound may be beginning to slip on the foreign exchanges, but those who want a second home abroad are still taking advantage of the strength of sterling. Some also hope to benefit from the coming of the European single currency, the euro. If economic and monetary union succeeds, it should bring an era of low interest rates and economic stability in Europe, a propitious scenario for homeowners.

Some 550,000 Britons already own properties in Euroland, the single currency area of 11 countries, including France, Germany, Spain and Italy. Although most people have bought in Spain, two of the other most popular locations are France and Italy.

Steven Emmett, of Brian A French & Associates, which helps people to find properties in Europe, said: "Exchange rates are spurring people on at the moment, particularly in Italy where the currency has fallen by some 45 per cent against the pound over the past year."

We report on one man's search for his French dream home on page 64 and on the loan deals now available for those wishing to buy in France and Italy.

### LOAN PACKAGES

A variety of loan packages are on offer for those wishing to invest in a home abroad. You can borrow in either the local currency or in sterling, through either a UK lender or one on the Continent.

Local currency mortgages will eventually convert into euro either when it comes into existence in January 1999, or during the period before euroland currencies go out of existence in July 2002.

Simon Conn, head of Conti Financial Services, which arranges mortgages for Britons buying in Europe, said: "Wool-

**Karen Woolfson on deals available for those seeking property in Euroland as exchange rates spur house-hunters**

required to take out life assurance cover equal to 100 per cent of the loan, and arrangements for this can be made through Abbey National France.

One drawback is that redeeming during the first seven years in France incurs a penalty of six months' interest based on the standard variable rate, subject to a maximum of 1 per cent of the outstanding balance. In Italy, a reducing penalty of 1 to 6 per cent is incurred during the first eight years, so it is worth taking this into account before you sign on the dotted line.

### THE PURCHASE

The process of buying a property is fairly similar in both Italy and France. Once you have found the ideal property, a draft agreement of sale will be drawn up between you and the vendor, which is quite different from the way that trading homes operates in the UK. The details of the sale will be set out, including the price, the deposit and the date by which the sale should be concluded. You will need to appoint a notary to act on your behalf. The notary may represent both the buyer and seller and is required to act independently. The deposit is generally 10 per cent in Italy and France, and, if you breach the draft agreement, you may lose it — or much more in some cases. When you are ready to complete the sale, the notary will attend to the legal details, collect the tax and witness signing of the contract.

### CONTACTS

Brian A French & Associates: 0171-284 0114  
Conti Financial Services: 01273 77281  
Federation of Overseas Property Developers, Agents and Consultants: 0181-941 3588  
Woolwich: 0181-298 4400  
Abbey National: 0800 449090

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- The Jupiter PEP
- PEP Transfer

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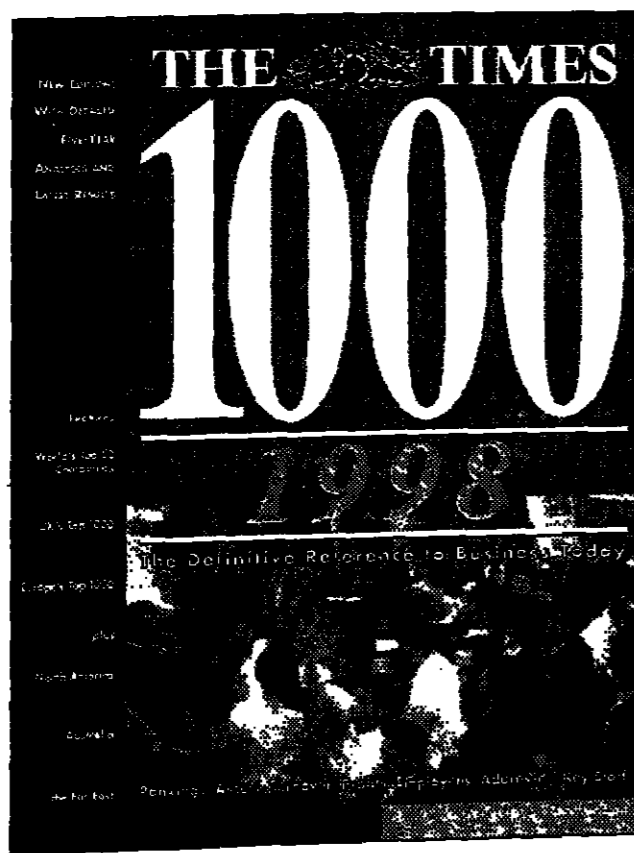
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Cost of checking credit rating rises

Anyone wishing to see the information held about them by a credit reference agency will now have to pay a higher fee. The Office of Fair Trading has increased the statutory fee from £1 to £2. The information is looked at by most lenders when consumers apply for credit. There are two credit information providers, Experian and Equifax.

To see the details held on your credit file, send a £2 cheque or postal order made payable to Experian, Consumer Help Service, PO Box 8000, Nottingham NG1 5GX.

Equifax are keeping the fee fixed at £1 for the next six months. For access to your file, send a cheque for £1 to Equifax, Dept IE, PO Box 3001, Glasgow G81 2DT.

IFA Promotion, the organisation that represents more than 14,000 independent financial advisers, has produced a guide to inheritance tax that takes account of the changes announced to IHT in the March Budget. Inheritance tax is charged at 40 per cent on estates above £23,000. Not only does this include your property, but also investments and savings, car, furniture, personal effects

and the proceeds of life insurance, unless it is written in trust. The guide outlines a number of ways an IFA can assist in reducing the amount of inheritance lost to the taxman. It also explains how an IFA can help people who have received an inheritance to make the most of their windfall, for example, by placing it in a tax-free product. For a free copy of the Guide to Inheritance, call 0117-9711177.

The Disability Rights Handbook, a guide to all social security benefits for disabled people, includes updates on attendance allowance and disability living allowance and advises on what to do if you are affected by the benefits integrity project. Other sections cover incapacity benefit and industrial injuries benefits, and community care law. The handbook, priced £11 for those claiming benefit, is available from the Disability Alliance sales department (0171-247 8776) from Monday.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVING INVESTORS' BEST BUYS

Table with columns: Account, Notice of term, Deposit, Rate, Interest paid. Includes Standard Life Bank 0845 556567, Scottish Widows Bank 0845 8450829, etc.

Table with columns: Account, Notice of term, Deposit, Rate, Interest paid. Includes Scarborough BS 01723 500616, Bristol & West 0800 202121, etc.

Table with columns: Account, Notice of term, Deposit, Rate, Interest paid. Includes Norwich & Peterborough 01733 372222, Bradford & Bingley BS 0800 592588, etc.

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

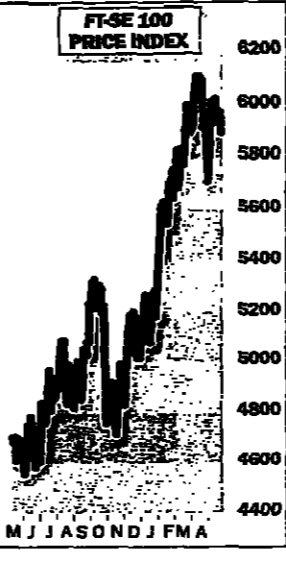
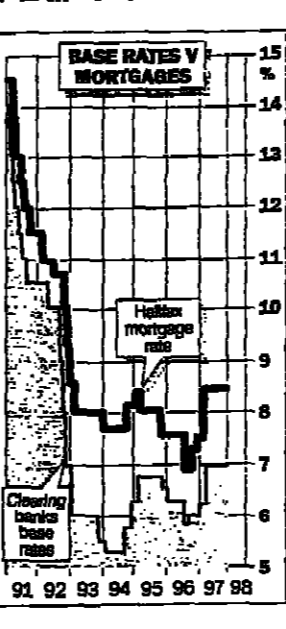
Table with columns: Card type, Interest per month, APR%, Fee per annum. Includes Capital One Bank 0800 869000, RBS Advanta 0800 077770, etc.

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

Table with columns: APR, Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance, Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs no insurance. Includes Northern Rock 0945 421421, Yorkshire Bank 0800 202122, etc.

NB: A = Minimum age 22 years, B = Operated by post or telephone, C = No interest free period, F = Fixed Rate, H = If insurance not arranged APR 12.7% per cent, N = Introductory rate for a limited period, OIM = Interest paid on maturity, P = Operated by Post, S = Operated by Telephone

\* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING. Sources: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01622 501677)



NATIONAL SAVINGS

Table with columns: Gross rate, At tax rates 20%, 40%, Minimum investment £, Notice, Contact. Includes Ordinary A/c, Investment A/c, Income Bond, etc.

PENSION ANNUITIES

Table with columns: Single Life (level ann), Male: Age 60, Age 65, Age 70; Female: Age 60, Age 65, Age 70. Includes Equitable Life, Prudential, Norwich Union, etc.

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

Table with columns: Investment (£), Company, Standard Rate (%). Includes 1 Year, 2 Years, 3 Years, 4 Years, 5 Years. Includes GE Fin Assur, ITT Lon & Edin, etc.

FIXED RATE

Table with columns: Gross coupon, Buying price, % Gross issue price, Minimum purchase amount. Includes Birmingham Midshires 9.375%, Bradford & Bingley 11.625%, etc.

PERPETUAL SUBORDINATED BONDS

Table with columns: Gross coupon, Buying price, % Gross issue price, Minimum purchase amount. Includes Chelt & Gloucester 11.750%, Halifax 8.750%, etc.

LARGER LENDERS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate %, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Includes Bank of Scotland, Halifax, etc.

LARGER LOANS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate %, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Includes Bank of Scotland, Halifax, etc.

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate %, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Includes Bank of Ireland, Halifax, etc.

THE SUCCESS STORY OF THE NINETIES

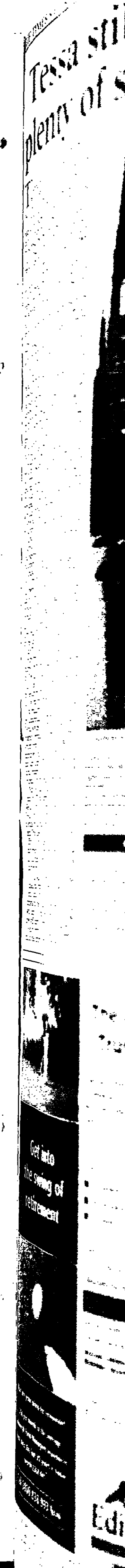
Dear Newspaper, please deliver/save me a copy of THE TIMES. Name, Address, Postcode.

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Why, Yld. Includes ADSON LIFE ASSURANCE, BLACK HORSE LIFE, ABBEY LIFE, etc.

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Why, Yld. Includes GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE, HALLOWAY LIFE LTD, EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE, etc.

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Why, Yld. Includes LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURE, HAMBRO ASSURED, LEGAL & GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE, etc.

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Why, Yld. Includes SUN LIFE OF CANADA, SUN LIFE UNIT, SUN ALLIANCE, etc.



# Tessa still has plenty of suitors

The Tessa, devised by John Major during his brief period as Chancellor, bows out of the savings scene next April. But the tax exempt special savings account is not experiencing any decrease in popularity, thanks to a decision made by the current Chancellor. Although the Tessa will be supplanted by the individual savings account (isa) in April 1999 - Labour's tax-free savings incentive - Tessa savers will be allowed to continue to contribute to their accounts until they reach their term.

At this time, they will also be entitled to transfer the capital into an Isa. You will also be permitted to make the full Isa contribution of £5,000 during that year. The rather more generous Tessa rules allow you to put away £9,000 over five years, receiving tax-free interest, as long as the capital remains untouched until maturity.

Many of those now taking out Tessas are opting for fixed-rate accounts, hoping to benefit from the advent of the euro and its expected effects on UK interest rates. British rates are expected to fall to converge with the generally lower rates of interest in Europe, assuming that Britain opts to become part of economic and monetary union some time in the next Parliament. Those locking into fixed rates now will be sitting pretty as other rates start to decline.

Jonathan Loynes, UK economist at HSBC Securities, said: "I anticipate interest rates will remain on hold for at least six months and start falling slowly towards the end of this year or the start of next year. They may rebound for a period at some point, but the dominant trend is downwards."

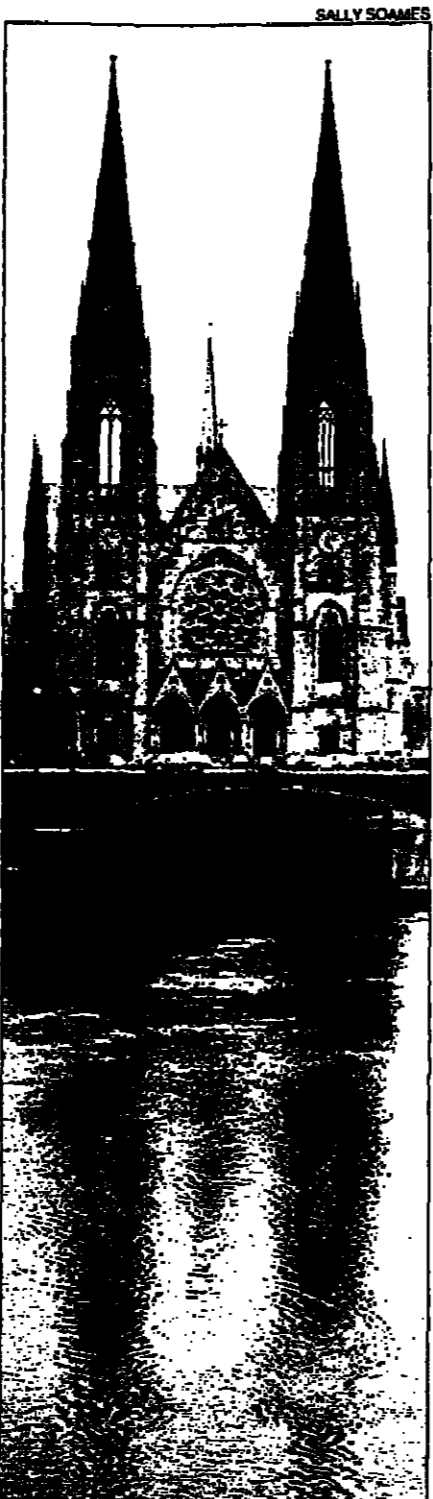
Another reason cited for taking out a fixed-rate Tessa is the expectation that rates on variable-rate Tessas will fall after the introduction of the Isa, when banks and building societies no longer need to attract Tessa customers. Sun Bank, a division of Sun Life Assurance of Canada, is currently offering one of the best fixed rates for those taking out their first Tessa. It pays 6.75 per cent, against the average of 6.49 per cent. However, there is one drawback - you have to hand over an initial lump sum of £8,575. £3,000 of this is deposited in the Tessa which is the maximum permitted at the start, with the rest going into a feeder account paying a fixed 6.75 per cent after tax.

In the first year, you would receive £301.05 interest on the feeder account and £202.50 on the Tessa. In each of the three following years, Sun Bank would transfer £1,800 from the feeder into the Tessa, with the balance of £600 being transferred in the final year.

The maturity value of this account will be the accumulated sum plus interest in the Tessa, which is £11,378.67 plus the £291.42 interest remaining in the feeder account, which comes to £11,670.09 for the basic-rate taxpayer. Higher-rate taxpayers will have to pay an extra £179.11 in tax, bringing their total return to £11,490.99 - a 34 per cent increase on the original investment.

NatWest Bank is also offering a good fixed rate of 6.71 per cent for savers taking out a Tessa for the first time. However, if your first Tessa is close to its term, you will find that the average fixed rate on offer is about 6.8 per cent. The Leeds & Holbeck Building Society offers 7.4 per cent, but only to existing customers who are transferring £9,000 from an existing Leeds & Holbeck Tessa. New customers get a fixed rate of 7.3 per cent.

If you want to invest only £3,000 at the outset, the rates on offer are lower. Allied Irish and the Co-operative Bank offer among the best rates at 7 per cent. For those who can only muster a minimum of £500, they will earn 6.5 per cent at the Woolwich. Before opting for a Tessa, check whether the quoted interest rate is compound or non-



Strasbourg: the birthplace of the euro

compound (ie, is it paid annually or at the end of the term?) because this will make a significant difference to the sum actually received. Clydesdale Bank, for example, does not compound its interest rate, so the 8 per cent quoted is actually 6.96 per cent. You should also check for any penalties for withdrawals or transfers of accounts.

### CONTACTS

- Sun Bank: 01438-744 500
- NatWest Bank: 0800-200 400
- Abbey National: 0800-222 397
- Hoare & Co: 0171-353 4522
- Leeds & Holbeck: 08000-728 738
- Co-operative Bank: 0800-125 100
- Allied Irish Bank: 01895-272 222
- Woolwich: 0800-222 200

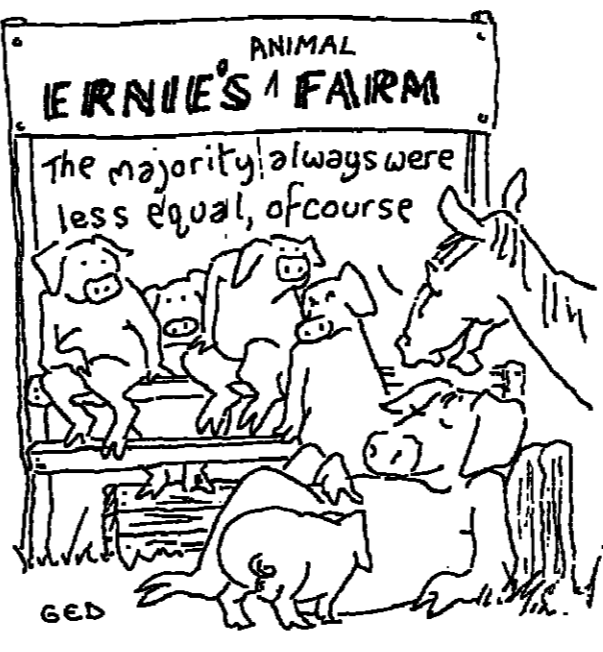
KAREN WOOLFSON

## WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

### Bonds are lucky for some...

From Professor T. O'Donnell Sir, Following the article by Patrick Collinson (More investors take a punt on Premium Bonds, April 18), it might be of interest to report some average results for the maximum of £20,000 of bonds held over periods of one year, five years and ten years.

The National Savings brochure on Bonds claims an expectation of 13 prizes per year for a holding of £20,000 (in fact the long-term average is 12.62 prizes pa - rounding up to the nearest integer is an allowable gloss). The current brochure also reports a 5 per cent pa tax-free prize fund. This might lead one to think that the average return to investors holding 20,000 bonds would be £1,000 pa. In the large this is true, but there is a skewness in the distribution of prizes which investors may not realise: puts a bias into their winnings. Prizes of £1,000 or more form 0.52 per cent of the total number of prizes, with prizes of £500 or less totalling the remaining 99.48 per cent. As a consequence, some 67 per cent of investors holding 20,000 bonds for a year will receive less than the expectation of £1,000, ie, two out of three will receive less than £1,000 and one out of three will receive £1,000 or more. If held for five years and ten years (expectations of £5,000 and £10,000 respectively) the corresponding percentages are 72 per cent and 74 per cent respectively, roughly three out of four getting less than the expectation and one out of four getting the expecta-



tion or more. The small number of large prizes is good for a minority but not so good for the majority. Yours faithfully, T. O'DONNELL, 20 The Priory, Abbotskerswell, Devon. TQ12 5PP.

From Mr V. R. Sumner Sir, Thank you for your highly informative report on the history and practice of investing in Premium Bonds. As well as being of use as viable investment, may I point out to you that they are of special value to executors. Premium Bonds can be cashed in by the executor before obtaining probate. This avoids the need for obtaining a bank loan. It means that money is available for paying immediate expenses and the funeral fees, as well as being able to pay the probate fees. As an executor, I found this to be of great practical value. Yours faithfully, V. SUMNER, 6 Middle Onslow Close, Ferring, Worthing, BN12 5RT.

### Penny-pinching doesn't pay off

From Mr John Parker Sir, I was interested to read your article (Taxman demanding £1 arrears, Business News, May 4) that the taxman was demanding small sums under the self-assessment scheme. I received a demand on March 12 from the Inland Revenue for £0.01. Rather than spend too much on my obligations to pay by making out a cheque, I rendered a 1p coin across the counter at my local Post Office.

This transaction cost the taxman 54p by way of the collection fee paid to the Post Office and the postage charge for the demand. It would seem that in this case, looking after the pennies hasn't helped the pounds particularly well. Yours faithfully, JOHN PARKER, High Holborn Farm, Little Kimble, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

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\*Source: Mirocapital, buying price to selling price with gross income reinvested from 03/05/93 to 01/05/98. £6,000 became £16,007. Based on £2,250 invested in each of the Schroder UK Smaller and European Smaller Companies Funds and £1,500 invested in the Schroder US Smaller Companies Fund.

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Still going well — in its quiet way

Shell is the prime example of a virtually extinct corporate species — a big blue-chip company that flatly refuses to nod and wink in influential analysts through their "guesstimates" of results before official disclosure of the figures. Such stoicism has won it few friends among City brokers' analysts whose reputations (and pay) depend on accurate "insights".

The company's reserve also means its official earnings bulletins often come either as a nasty shock or a nice surprise. On February 12, it was the former. The shares were dumped in large volume when Shell's fourth-quarter results turned out far worse than expected. With crude oil prices then at the bottom of their perceived trading range, upstream earnings were bound to be hit: so why the shock reaction?

According to the *Financial Times*: "Analysts' perception of the company as a perennially unenthusiastic communicator failed to improve matters... brokers had previously received no cushioning hints about the state of earnings." At Shell HQ there is a recognition that its refusal to communicate before results are out officially might, as in February, result in a flogging in the stock markets.

But Shell's silence over sharply lower first quarter results released this month proved golden. A 27 per cent fall in net profit to \$1.69 billion and lower return on average capital employed (Roace) of 10.8 per cent (against 14 per cent scored by its peers) exceeded the forecasts of



STELLA SHAMOON

judged analysts and its shares jumped. Last night they stood at 455p.

Nothing fundamental has changed: crude oil prices are unlikely to reach the average \$18 a barrel on which Shell has based its Roace target of 13 per cent this year. But the perception of Shell has changed. It is no longer seen as a proxy for the oil price, but rather a great management story. The low oil price, if

anything, should accelerate infrastructure cost savings resulting in substantially higher net earnings. Meanwhile, Shell's \$5.1 billion cash-rich balance sheet has very low gearing, and underpins a 3.58 per cent yield.

There is talk about re-rating Shell — talk which may be endorsed after Wednesday's detailed presentations to analysts and big shareholders by Mark

Moody-Stuart, Shell chairman and managing director, and Jeroen van der Veer, managing director of Royal Dutch Petroleum. Shell owns 40 per cent and RD 60 per cent respectively in the Anglo-Dutch group.

Shell is not as financially efficient as its peer group, notably Exxon, a fact that has hung over Shell's shares. But it possesses one of the best gross portfolios in the industry, and its operational efficiency is second only to Exxon. Such operational strength can only be achieved by ploughing profits back into the business — a concept that conflicts with taking out the maximum now. Shell is admired by its peers for its guile in allocating cash to large-scale capital intensive projects such as liquefied natural gas. This strategy reduces short-term returns on capital employed but it ensures large stable future cashflows and natural gas sales by establishing a strong presence in the field now.

Shell is utterly confident and cogent in its long-term growth strategy, and rightly so. The very nature of the oil business demands a perspective embracing decades, not just when quarterly results are announced. The fact that Shell insists on maximum operational performance, possibly at the expense of short-term financial performance, is reassuring. Better to forgo profit now for far greater profit later.

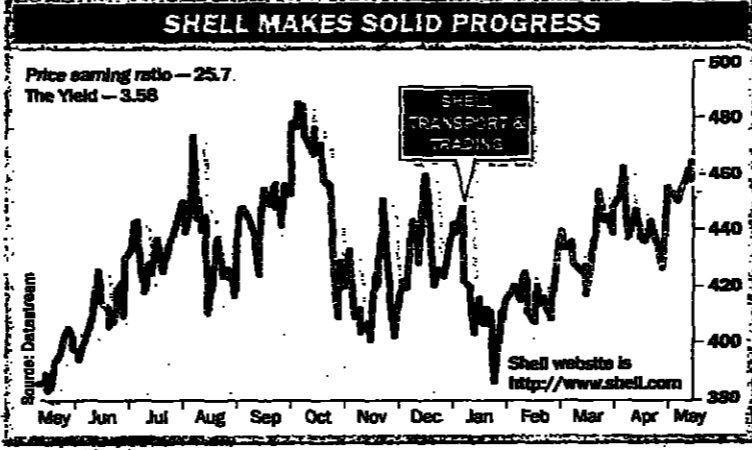
True, BP shareholders benefit from greater financial efficiency than Shell's do but the once debt-ridden BP was

forced to go through the transformation to greater creation of shareholder value in the early Nineties. Shell has only just started this process of change.

Shell's target is to raise return on average capital employed to 15 per cent in 2001. That assumes net profits of \$14 billion to \$15 billion against \$8 billion in 1997. There is a credibility gap in the financial community. But Mr Moody-Stuart insists: "I am confident we will meet 15 per cent by 2001". Clearly, he is not just hoping crude oil prices will rise. The implication is that Shell is prepared to embrace some restructuring, involving disposals, huge cost-cutting and gearing up its balance sheet — possibly via share buybacks.

Shell is already turning itself inside out to appease the fundamentalists among the environmentalists. But it need not bend over backwards to please the financial community. Shell is less dependent than BP on the price of crude oil. A difference of \$1 up or down in the crude oil price has a 4.5 per cent or so impact either way on Shell's net earnings and 6.5 per cent on BP's.

Shell is more than just a business. It is a deep culture, and a community that spans the world. There is consistency in the command. Its uniquely collegial top management is comprised of a committee of six managing directors, all well connected in their geographic areas and well imbued with Shell's philosophy. But the change is that operational strategy is now being defined by executives at the sharp end.



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Goal: John Hartson puts one in the back of the net for West Ham: the club is hoping for similar success with its savings account

# Soccer cashes in on the savings game

Patrick Collinson assesses the accounts offered to supporters by football clubs

Football clubs have flocked supporters for years with soaring ticket prices and cynically exploited ever-changing and ever more expensive football strips. Now they want your savings too. In some cases, the rates are so poor that a saver would have to put £500 on deposit for four years to buy even the cheapest restricted-view seat at today's Cup Final.

This week West Ham United launched a savings account for its fans, paying up to 6.25 per cent interest per year. West Ham's rate puts other football clubs to shame, which until now have consisted of a ragbag league of rip-off accounts that have made sense for only the most committed supporter.

Savers in Barnsley's Reds Saver account have, like the football club, been in the relegation zone all year. Supporters who put £1,000 into the account earn gross interest of just 3.9 per cent.

Ipswich Town, Huddersfield and Bristol Rovers compete to offer the worst deal. A youngster putting £100 into Darlington's Quaker Supporter account earns a paltry 1 per cent interest.

Ipswich Super Blues savers do little better, obtaining just 1.75 per cent on small balances, while Bristol Rovers pays out only 1.25 per cent on its Pirates account for savers under £1,000, according to figures from MoneyFacts.

Sports savings accounts are not limited to football. Warwickshire County Cricket Club this week announced a tie-up with West Bromwich Building Society, offering cricket lovers a savings account with interest rates of up to 4.95 per cent. Many more "affinity" deals with sports clubs are expected to follow, though neither of today's Cup Final teams, Arsenal and Newcastle, offers savings accounts.

Both teams, however, operate finance deals with HFC Bank whereby fans can arrange a loan (at an APR of 22.4 per cent) to pay for their season ticket.

HFC is also offering a one-off benefit for fans driving to Wembley today, with a free-of-charge breakdown recovery service for any fans registered at their local HFC branch.

What is in it for the football clubs? Every club earns 1 per cent of the average balance held in the savings account, which is usually operated by a local building society. The clubs are coy about how much they earn from the deal, but last year one first division club is believed to have collected between £100,000 and £150,000 from its savings account. How much the clubs

Stand season ticket. It also gives fans a package of discounts ranging from £100 off purchases at Allied Carpets and 5 per cent off Thomas Cook holidays.

Leeds United offers its savers a 10 per cent discount at its shop, commission-free travel money, discounts on Green Flag breakdown cover and £125 off a Leeds & Holbeck Building Society mortgage.

Lambeth Building Society's Mr Todd says it has not been able to offer a season ticket discount as part of its deal with West Ham because it wanted to maximise the interest rate on offer, but promises special offers on team strips and other promotions.

Will the new West Ham account follow the woeful practices of other savings institutions and drop its rates once the fans have been locked in?

Mr Todd said: "We're not trying to make a mega-profit on this account. We want to keep it transparent and not rip people off."

One committed West Ham supporter, Alan Baker, said: "When you go along to a Saturday match everybody looks pretty scruffy and you wouldn't imagine they have much to save. But when you go along on a Wednesday evening match you see a lot of Essex City boys who obviously have a bit of money."

Peter Todd of Lambeth Building Society, which put together the West Ham savings account, said: "The account benefits the club to the maximum extent and benefits the supporters by giving a good savings rate. It may not be as good a rate as you can possibly get, but it is certainly a lot better than many other accounts, and is the best rate on offer from a football club."

What is in it for the fans? West Bromwich Albion's savings account, although paying a top rate of only 4.95 per cent, gives supporters a useful 5 per cent discount off the Family

Club Savings Rates

Club	Gross interest (%)*
West Ham United	6.00
Port Vale	5.00
Stoke City	5.00
Norwich City	4.45
West Bromwich Albion	4.20
Coventry	4.00
Leeds United	4.00
Barnsley	3.55
Darlington	3.50
Ipswich	3.25
Huddersfield	3.15
Bristol Rovers	1.25

\*£500 savings balance  
Source: MoneyFacts

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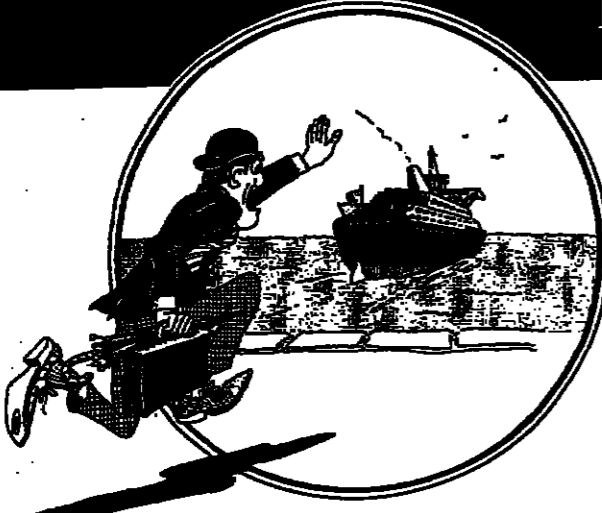
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**TIGER HUNTING 55**  
Graham Searjeant's advice is keep out of the jungle for a while

# WEEKEND MONEY

**BLIND EYE 55**

Don't put off making provision for your pension



## When a wedding hits a hitch



If Claudia Schiffer ever makes it to the altar, she will have the pick of designer dresses like this little Valentino number

The most abiding photographic memory of the wedding of Henry Dent-Brocklehurst, film-maker, and Lili Maltese, model, will not be a toothy shot of the handsome couple but the vision of their friend, Elizabeth Hurley, actress, in revealing Versace at the reception. But the official pictures featuring the happy pair are unlikely to disappoint, given their connections in the worlds of fashion and café society publishing. Readers of *Hello!*, with whom the Dent-Brocklehursts have done an exclusive deal, should be able to enjoy the sight of Studeley Castle, his 15th-century home, decorated in Hawaiian style, with the couple and their celebrity guests frolicking among the hibiscus blossoms. The pictures of the nuptials next year of Emma Noble, game show hostess, and James Major, aspiring entrepreneur and son of the former Prime Minister, should also be a fit memento of the happy day: the media-friendly couple appear to know lots of photographers, including the boys from *Hello!* When aristocratic or show-business couples tie the knot, the quality of the pictures will be assured, even if the results may not be to the taste of traditionalists in such matters. Other

**Anne Ashworth reports on how to guard against nuptial nightmares**

brides and grooms cannot be so confident. They aspire to *Four Weddings and a Funeral* gloss but fear that their photographer's efforts will be more reminiscent of the film's plot mishaps than its stylish cinematography. Average couples may readily admit that they are not so attractive as *Four Weddings* stars Andie McDowell and Hugh Grant, but they will wish to be shown at their best. In focus, at the least. If the wedding album fails to please, they may be relying on a wedding insurance policy to cover the replacements. But their claim may not succeed. Insurance companies do not concern themselves with aesthetics. They are not interested whether your photographer failed to match the quality of light and shade achieved by Patrick Demarchelier, only in whether or not your man is correctly described as a "professional". If he is an amateur, his work is not insured. Insurers will also only pay out if the photographer fails to appear, or for loss or damage to the original film or negatives.

(01603-767 699), will pay out up to £1,000. Cornhill's Weddingsurance (0118-957 5491) provides up to £1,000 for photographs and £500 for videos, and extra cover can be arranged. No expense seems to have been spared to make the Dent-Brocklehurst celebrations go with a swing, including the provision of some 500 tubs of tulips. Some of this will presumably be defrayed by the contract with *Hello!* Normal weddings can expect no such patronage and cost an average of £12,570, according to *You and Your Wedding* magazine. In light of this total, taking out insurance against caterers who go bankrupt and dresses ruined on the wedding eve seems worthwhile. The average policy covers attire, presents, public liability, rings, transport and the deposits which may be lost if a supplier of goods or services goes bust. Cover for damage to marquees is an optional extra. The typical cost is £40-£50, including insurance premium tax of 4 per cent. For those who keep a tally, this is about a quarter of the annual value of the married couple's tax allowance, given to the husband once he enters the state of matrimony. Although this allowance is £1,900, it is really worth just 10 per cent of that — £190.

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## BUSINESS NEWS PAGES 26-31

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

The coming of the euro is enticing buyers into the market for homes in Euro-land. Typical of those who have overcome the obstacles of buying abroad is Steven D'Aulby, who looked for his ideal home eight years ago. London seemed expensive so he decided to look in France, concentrating first on the Vendée and Brittany. He contacted an agent and made several trips to France with a friend who had agreed to share the cost (Karen Woodson writes).

**Surprisingly simple to snap up French retreat**

accepted. "It has a stream running across the front of it, four bedrooms, an enormous living room and a converted barn attached to it with another three bedrooms." They put down a 10 per cent deposit and took out a 15-year repayment mortgage with a local lender — Crédit Agricole — at a fixed rate of 10.55 per cent, which compared to his UK mortgage of 14.5 per cent at the time. However, he has since negotiated this rate down to 8.9



Buy in the sun, page 59

Mortgage lenders are accused of treating their customers as second-class citizens, who subsidise new borrowers to give them the pick of the cut-price deals. Loyal borrowers pay standard variable rates as high as 8.70 per cent, while rates of 4 to 5 per cent are widely available to newcomers, according to a survey from Moneyfacts, the savings and mortgage rate information group. The findings will increase the pressure for mortgages to be brought under the Financial Services Act (FSA). Moneyfacts says savers whose accounts become "obsolete", no longer being marketed and no longer paying a competitive rate of interest, expect to be told if their cash can be moved to a new account with a better rate. In the same way, borrowers paying the standard variable rate should be given the chance to switch to a new lower-

## First-time buyers get the best loans

rate loan. In practice, many borrowers find they are only offered a more generous package if they threaten to move to a competitor. Moneyfacts says 12 lenders are attempting to reward loyalty by offering special incentives and preferential rates. All, save the Northern Rock, are mutuals. They include Bradford & Bingley and Britannia. Others are making special deals available to their existing customers. Nationwide, one of the strongest supporters of mutualism, has launched a fixed-rate loan mortgage with a rate of 5.69 per cent, and a five-year loan fixed at 5.79 per cent — both the offers are available to both new and existing borrowers. Although

all those that have more than a 10 per cent deposit. The decision about whether to remortgage is now much easier for many borrowers. For example, taking out a two-year loan offered by the Portman would save someone with a £50,000 8.7 per cent loan £2,310, over the two years. This remortgaging activity from a select band of homeowners is bringing the British system closer to the US system. In America, it is possible to fix mortgage rates for a long period, even up to 30 years. In reality very few borrowers have the same loan for this period of time, but in America, lenders do not impose the same types of redemption penalties on those who end their loans early. This allows borrowers to switch regularly to take advantage of new and lower-rate deals.

CAROLINE MERRELL AND ANNE ASHWORTH

## The borrower who switched



Simon Churchley is a prime example of a borrower who switched because his original lender took an unsympathetic view of his request for a fixed rate, when his existing product ended (Caroline Merrell writes). Mr Churchley, pictured with his wife Julie, son Toby and baby Harry, said: "I had a three-year fixed rate with the Alliance & Leicester costing me £670 per month, and I was keen to discuss with them the possibilities of a new deal to take over from May '98. I sent several letters and talked to a few people, as I had been pleased with their service to date. However, despite my attempts, they refused to discuss the options until after the existing deal had run out. "For me, this was unacceptable as I knew low fixed rates were on the market and did not wish to pay at the variable rate, which would cost £834 per month, while we discussed options that take over from May '98. He added: "Had I been a new customer, of course, they would be prepared to discuss the options for a May start to my loan. "I then explored the market and have been delighted to find a new five-year deal with the Bristol & West at even lower payments than the Alliance & Leicester, and will soon cover the remortgage fees," he said.

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**ANNE ROBINSON**



**The things you hear at breakfast with Alan Clark**

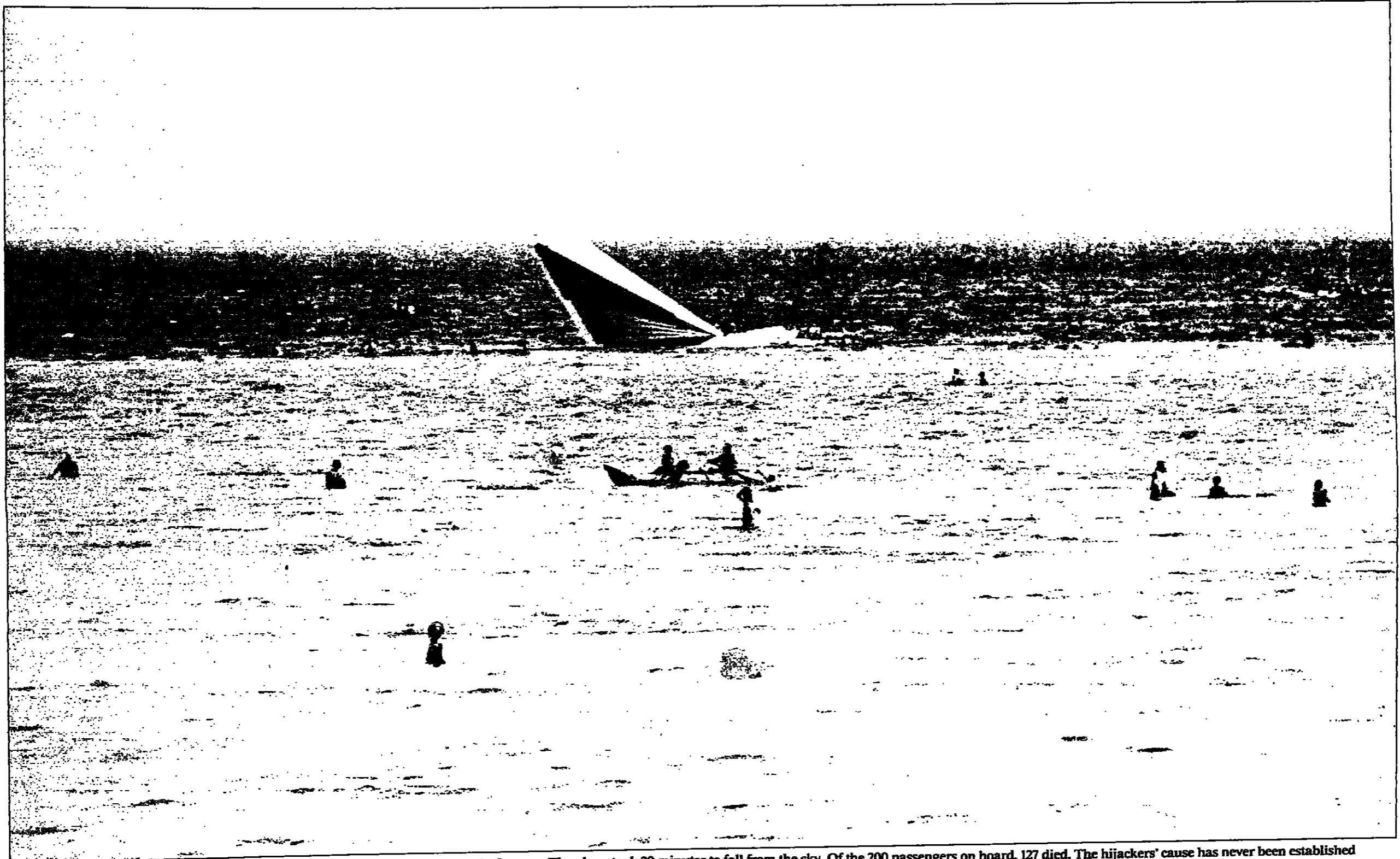
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THE TIMES

# WEEKEND

SATURDAY MAY 16 1998

## And then the screaming started



The wreckage of flight ET961 after it crash-landed off the coast of Grande Comore. The plane took 20 minutes to fall from the sky. Of the 200 passengers on board, 127 died. The hijackers' cause has never been established



Katie Hayes, left, and Lizzie Anders. "We pretended it was just a bad rollercoaster ride"

**Katie Hayes and Lizzie Anders were the only British survivors when an Ethiopian Airways jet crashed into the Indian Ocean after being hijacked by terrorists. Here Madeleine Kingsley tells of their ordeal**

The last thing I remember before hitting the water was chanting over and over again: "Please God, don't let us die". What happened to us was so monumental, so horrifying, that words simply don't exist to put across the experience.

Katie Hayes and Lizzie Anders were on Ethiopian Airways flight ET961, from Addis Ababa to Nairobi. They had been in the air 20 minutes — just long enough for the drinks trolley to appear — when the public address system crackled into life. The disembodied voice from the cockpit announced, first in Amharic, then French and finally in English, that the plane had been taken over by terrorists. The hijackers had a bomb and had ordered the flight to be diverted.

Katie says: "It was amazing how

quickly your brain adjusted to a situation you couldn't change. Initially we did brace ourselves for an explosion, but after ten minutes we began to relax and think 'Oh well, we're obviously worth keeping alive'. Thereafter I don't think it seriously crossed anyone's mind that we would crash.

Blonde and tanned, Katie, 33, cuts a glamorous and deceptively dreamy figure in a floaty Indian skirt as she talks about how she and Lizzie survived the terrifying five-hour ordeal of flight ET961 in November two years ago, the ordeal which they have now described in their book, *Hijack*.

Lizzie, equally blonde and tanned but smaller than Katie, in her Brand New Heavies T-shirt, picks up the story. After the initial shock, a bizarre calm and camaraderie ensued as passengers began

to whisper to each other, wondering what might happen and where they might land.

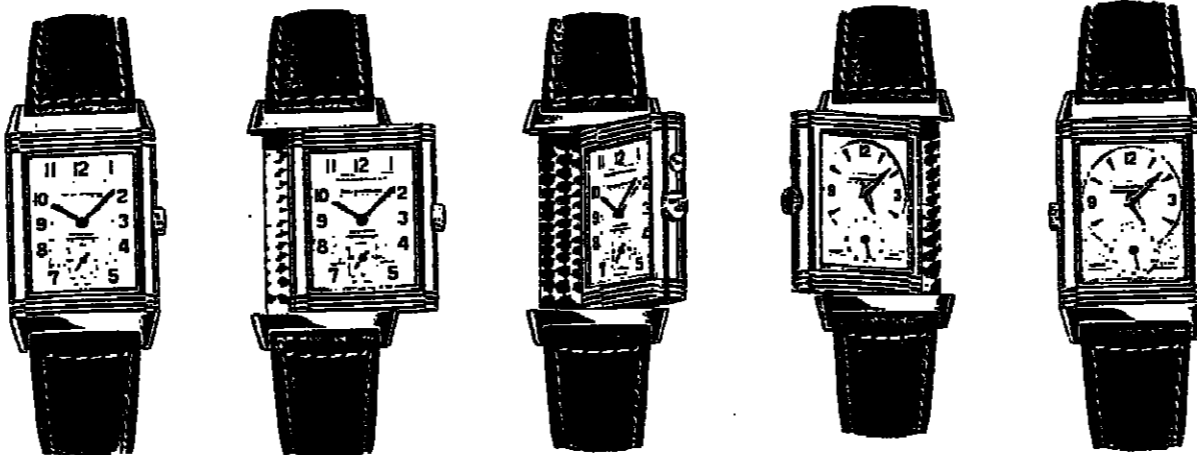
"We studied the map for trouble spots around the world. Nearby Madagascar was mentioned as a destination. Chad, Zaire, Libya..." Lizzie says. "As we sat looking at the whole situation it seemed bloody terrifying but destined to end up all right. Looking back I now see that we were trying to play it down to ourselves, but at the time we really believed we were going to end up on some runway while governments negotiated our release. We thought they'd let the women and children go, though they might shoot the odd passenger first, as a show of force." It was, says Katie, a measure of the remarkable restraint in the cabin

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# 'The screams died away to unearthly silence. Twenty minutes is a hell of a long time to know you're going to die'

From page 1  
"that the kids had no idea we were in any danger. They were even served meals and the baby of one Kenyan family we'd played peekaboo with at the airport was given his bottle".

Incredibly, Katie and Lizzie settled down to read — *Masai Dreaming* and *I Dreamed of Africa*, respectively. Given a full tank of fuel, the plane, they reckoned, could be in the air for eight-and-a-half hours, rather than the 90-minute flight as scheduled.

Nobody knows what was going through the heads of those who were so soon to die, but Lizzie and Katie report that the survivors they talked to later had all gone in their heads to a time and place beyond the worst: "We'd leapt forward to cold beers in Nairobi. The wife of a US diplomat said she instinctively grabbed sandwiches from the trolley because she'd foreseen us landing in the middle of nowhere, short of rations."

The unreal calm was abruptly shattered when the pilot, silent for four hours, informed the passengers that one engine had run out of fuel and the remaining engine was about to follow suit. They should, he said, prepare for a crash-landing.

That was when the screaming started. It took 20 minutes for flight ET961 to fall out of the clear blue sky above the Indian Ocean. 20 minutes of screaming and panic with a stench of people vomiting and losing control of their bowels. Katie says: "Twenty minutes is a hell of a long time to know you're going to die. The things that we experienced — like the volume of sound and the smells — are really beyond communication."

Both women were struck by the poignancy of one particular passenger, in her fifties, who walked down the aisle with dignified calm to ask the stewardess for her missing lifejacket. "She was asking for it because she was about to die, yet doing so as politely as if she wanted a glass of water."

They remember how the heart-rending screams of children died away, eventually, to unearthly silence. A stewardess behind them prayed. They remember the father of the Kenyan family all of whom died — his face stamped with tears and resignation. They recall the whoosh of lifejackets inflating all around them, even though passengers had been warned to pull the vital red tab only when they were in the water: "people in a nightmare needed to do whatever they could to resume some semblance of control".

Katie and Lizzie spent about ten minutes readying themselves in the crash position — "it is hard to assume in a lifejacket". They wrapped their fleece jackets around their heads for protection. They checked where the exits lay. They did not talk much. "What is there to say in such a situation beyond how much you love each other, which felt really important."

They held hands for a time as the plane continued to lurch downwards, levelling out to glide for a bit before lurching again. Katie repeated her favourite superstitious ritual, an elaborate version of touching toes, heels, the ground and then her forehead. Lizzie had always laughed before. "Do me for me," she said this time.

"If you imagine fear on a scale of one to ten," says Katie, "then we were at about 50,000 — a point at which your mind ceases to work and your senses shut down. Everyone fell silent. Well before we hit the water, we were almost in a trance. We'd let go of one another because it became apparent we couldn't hold on and protect ourselves at the same time."

"Eventually we weren't aware even of the sickening creaks from the fuselage. At some point you resign yourself that if you're going to die, it will be alone. We weren't aware of each other or even where we were. Death, it seems, is a very private thing."



Katie Hayes: her lungs filled with aviation fuel

The crash-landing, astonishingly, was a very public thing. The pilot brought the plane down just off the beach at Moroni, the principal town on Grande Comore, the largest of the Comoros islands. A honeymoon couple on the beach videod the whole event. The plane, travelling at about 160mph, seemed to glide down, then a wingtip hit the water, the plane hit the sea, bounced and crashed several times, broke up and came to rest only a few hundred yards from the beach.

"This is just a really bad rollercoaster ride," Katie told herself at the second impact. The third impact broke the plane apart and flung Katie, Lizzie and their aisle neighbour — an Ethiopian gynaecologist flying for the first time — into the sea.

For some unfathomable reason, the friends had for once opted to sit in the smoking section of the plane. It saved their lives: "Almost everybody who survived was sitting over the brakes, where the plane broke apart, as were we. Some survivors in first class came up still attached to their seats, but the main cabin landed upside-down. Many others, trapped by the lifejackets designed to save them, couldn't fight their way to the exits."

Media reports, initially featuring the sensational video of the crash, spoke of carnage, with bodies littering the shark-infested waters. But Katie and Lizzie saw no dead and no fins. Just bits of plane, shoes, bags and the plane tail, floating surreally on the sea.

Both recall classic out-of-body experiences underwater — white lights and a sense of peacefully viewing their own struggle. Only seconds later they were on the surface. Land was in view but about 500 yards away — too far, Lizzie knew at once, to swim.

Crying and desperately seeking her friend, she spotted Katie 40 feet away, recognisable by her Shamanic tour T-shirt. Although her leg was broken, Lizzie reports no pain. "Just a buzzing", as she swam over to Katie, who had lost her lifejacket but was clinging to a piece of carpet.

"I was shouting at Katie and she didn't answer. So I wasn't going to die. Even though I hadn't started thinking properly again, I was keeping myself afloat."

fore they were aware of a boat close at hand.

Of the 200 passengers aboard flight ET961, 127 died in the crash. Of the eight British passengers, Katie and Lizzie were the only survivors.

And there the horror should have ended, with the sweet relief of painkillers and medical sanctuary, white sheets and phone calls home. But Lizzie realised as soon as she saw the hospital of tin huts "that this trauma was not 100 per cent over. The island had a full-scale emergency on its hands and no resources to deal with it."

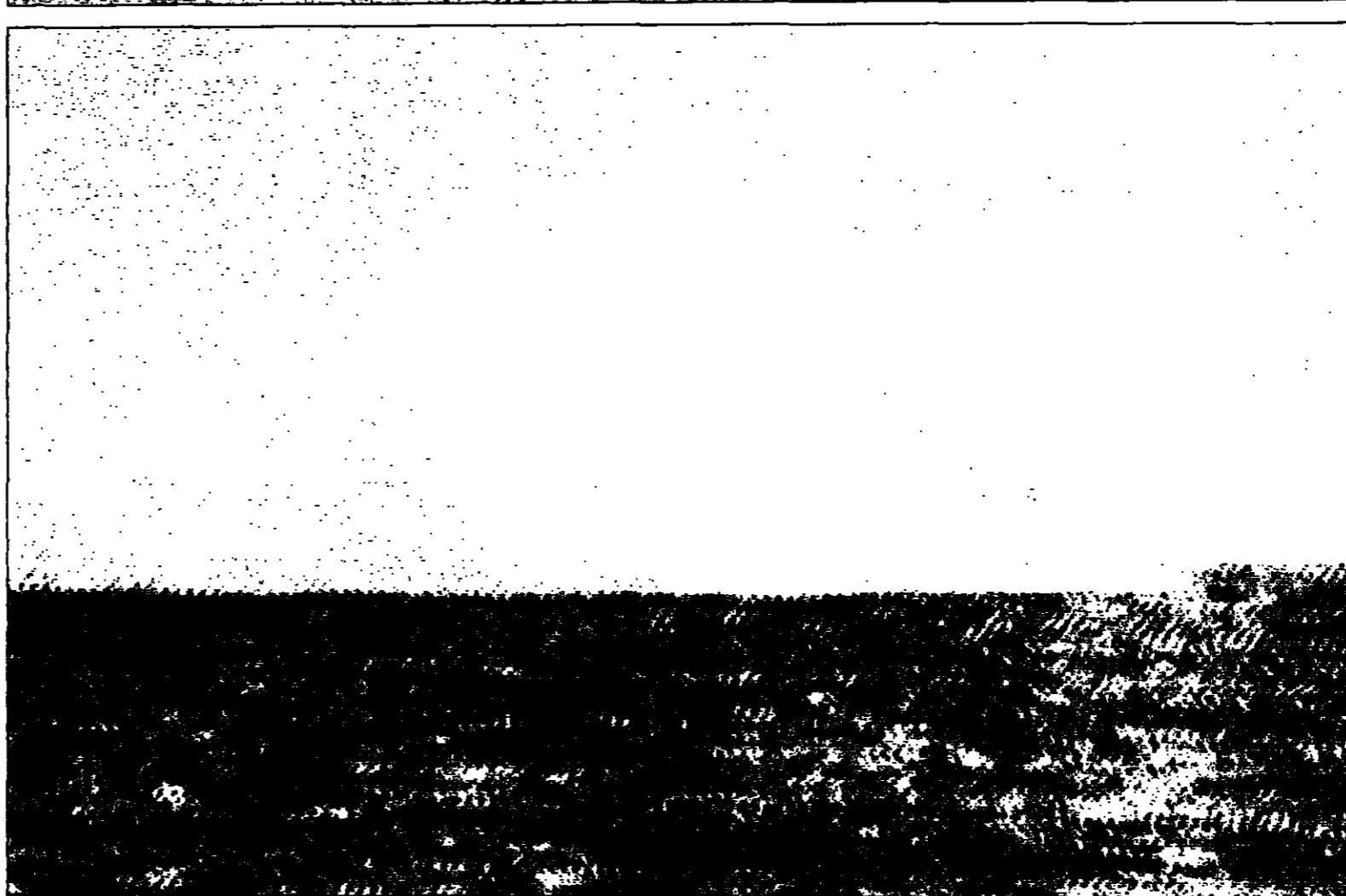
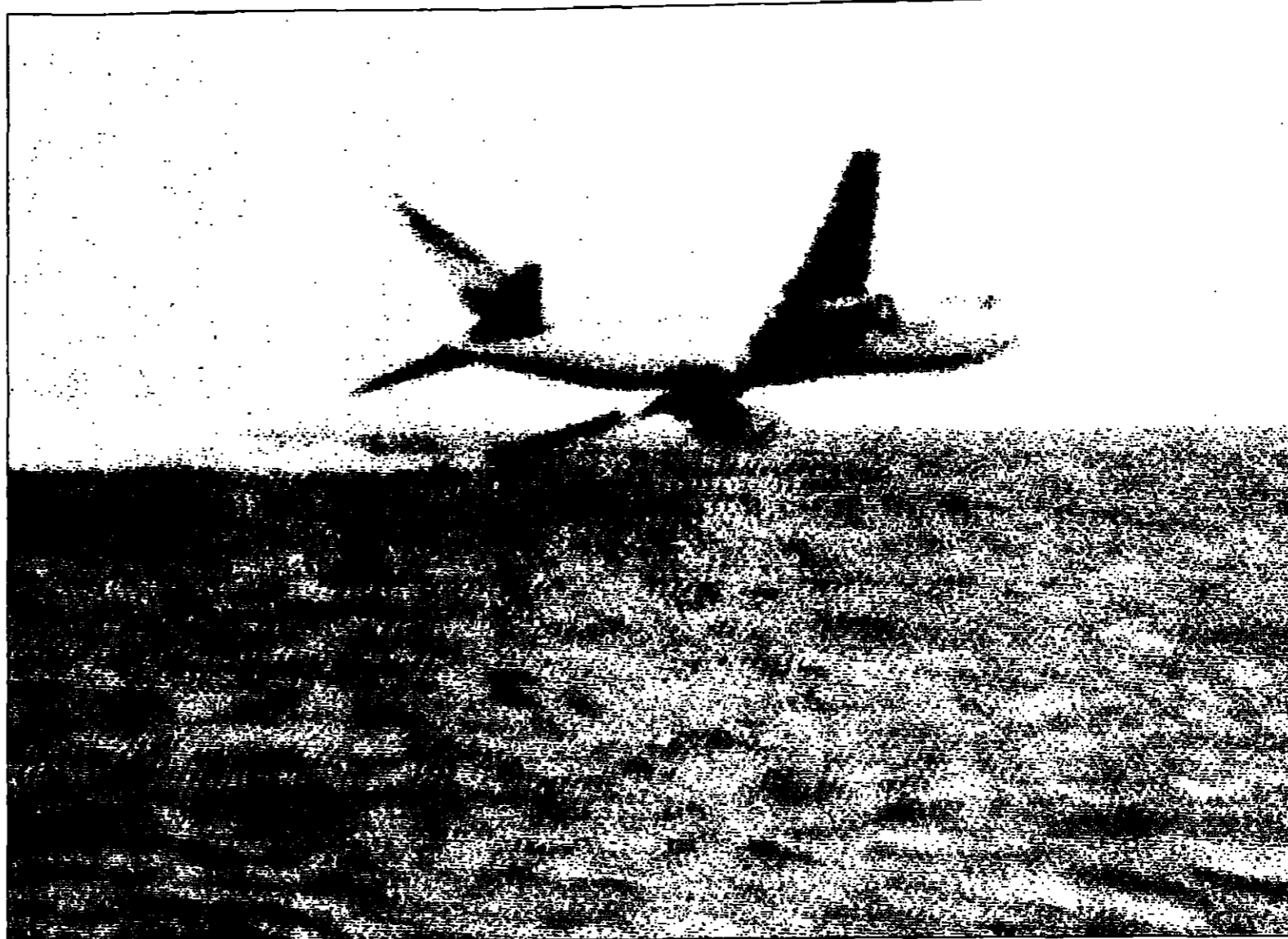
Lizzie was initially reported as the only British survivor, so Katie's family suffered hours of anguish before learning that she was safe. But she was not out of danger, even on land. Her life-threatening but invisible injuries were not immediately diagnosed and were not helped by a roughly handled visit to the basement X-ray machine, "as antiquated as a 1950s photocopier".

The two women now smile — almost — at the burlesque aftermath to rescue. Lizzie's leg was reset without painkillers and put in Zin-thick plaster, with only a sympathetic squeeze of the hand from a voluntary helper, Abdalla, 19.

She remembers doctors from a local convention rushing to help, still in their shorts and with sand on their backs. While people died around Katie, in intensive, no-tech care, the US diplomat, elsewhere in the hospital, bemoaned his lost £400 shoes. Terrified of finding themselves parted again, Lizzie and Katie cried and wept to be cared for together.

A handsome, French-speaking doctor noticed that both women had blue-painted toenails and decreed that "zee blue-finger sisters" be reunited. This doctor — the friends nicknamed him "the George Clooney clone" — was the first to recognise that there was worse than water in Katie's lungs. Katie says: "I was terribly thirsty and he fed me an orange, peeled, with all the pith removed. Such kindness!"

The following day Lizzie and Katie were airlifted to a hospital on Reunion, with all the luxury of fruit and flowers, well-wishing faxes from home and the shared euphoria of survival. A week later, still deeply shocked, they were flown home, facing four further take-offs and landings — and in Lizzie's case, more surgery. But a couple of months of family cossetting and obsessively viewing air-crash adventure videos restored them both to full health.



It took 20 minutes for the aeroplane to fall out of the clear blue sky. The pilot lost control because the hijackers were hitting him with an axe

In April 1997 they resumed their world trip as planned. Lizzie says: "We had to go, because for a very long time the crash wiped out everything else that had happened to us before. We had to take control of our lives and give ourselves a new history."

They had both given up their jobs to travel but had managed to be away only one month. "What were we to do?" asks Katie. "Spend all the rest of our lives in England, defining ourselves as crash victims? We found post-traumatic stress counsellors who helped us put the crash in perspective — to accept the reality that we were changed by the crash, but that we should not let this weird cameo experience, this

one, short, albeit intensive drama rule the rest of our lives."

How exactly are they changed? "We're more caring of others now, though less tolerant," Lizzie says.

While the two women may be coming to terms with their horrifying experience, they and the relatives of the 127 passengers who died still do not know the full story.

There is doubt whether there ever was a bomb on board the flight. The three hijackers had overpowered the pilot by hitting him with the emergency axe which was hanging — all too conveniently — outside the cockpit. But their cause remains a mystery. Were they after a ransom,

political asylum or the freeing of prisoners? Were they connected with an arms deal, or with the Ethiopian vice-president recently imprisoned for corruption? How is it possible that the pilot, who spent so long with the hijackers, later wrongly identified two survivors who were then denied medical attention until they were exonerated?

The Ethiopian official line, say Lizzie and Katie, is that the terrorists were three drunks, with no initial motive beyond a whim to visit Australia. "But who is prepared to kill himself and so many others for no cause at all? The pilot, who survived, later said that he had stressed repeatedly, but in vain, that he needed to refuel.

Apparently the three men wouldn't believe him because their geography was so poor," says Katie.

She and Lizzie heard that when trying to crash-land as safely as possible on the Comoros, the captain was instructed to hit a hotel so that as many people as possible would die, making the hijackers famous. Clearly he would not comply but attempted a sea landing instead, at which point he was repeatedly hit about the head. It was this which made him lose control of the steering so that the wingtip caught the water — "like hitting concrete" at 160mph.

No information from the plane's black-box voice record-

er has been made known, but this summer the Ethiopian Government will produce its report based on the black-box recordings.

Less angry than they first were to be left in the dark, Lizzie and Katie still feel the strongest possible need to know the hijackers' cause, not just for themselves, but for all the victims on the tragic flight and also for their bereaved relatives.

"Even to hear that they did it to make everyone in the world wear red socks would be better than nothing."

● Hijack — Our Story of Survival by Lizzie Anders and Katie Hayes is published by Andre Deutsch on May 28 at £12.99.

Pottering about at home with the Potty Prince



سكزنا من الأوصا

# Anne Robinson



● **BRIGHT**, spanking new double yellow lines suddenly appeared just beyond our front gate in Kensington one morning last week. Did our lovely neighbour know? Would she be upset? Particularly as they covered the entrance to her drive. Would she 'eck, as like.

"I asked for them," she says proudly. "In preparation for the pilgrims. Last year I couldn't get into my garage."

She is not the only one on pilgrim alert. In the early mornings, councils of war are taking place whenever two or more dog walkers gather in Kensington Gardens. There is but one topic: the proposed memorial garden to Diana in front of Kensington Palace.

Kensington does not want it. Not one little bit. "Can't the Chancellor add up?" the owner of the two black labs asks crossly. We others shake our heads in dismay and agreement. Dogs fight. Dogs steal each other's balls. Dogs grab the ankles of joggers as we stand and rant through the argument.

It goes like this: the Royal Parks

are Crown Property and can decide to do what they like, but just think of the car parking, the lavatories, the first-aid tents, the St John Ambulance personnel and the bus-stand stands required to accommodate an estimated extra 35,000 daily summer visitors. The terrible traffic jams. The perilous strain on the Tube stations.

Everyone has a horror story from last September. Oh, the noise! Oh the people! But we know we must stick to good sense and reason. Or, as someone mutters: "We can't be seen simply to be objecting to the riff raff."

We try, although residents are not known for letting a thought go unsaid. As one Knight of the borough retorts at a meeting of the Kensington Society: "Princess Margaret is now the principal resident of Kensington Palace and she didn't even like her."

● **AND WHERE** does our dashing MP Alan Clark stand in all of this? It's been hard to fathom. Alan's greatest art when he bumps into

you is to give the impression this is the moment he's waited all his life for.

So twice, when I have cornered him on the subject, he's gazed into my eyes and reassured me he's on the right side. Hilariously, he turns out to have been doing much the same to anyone who thinks a 300ft fountain in the middle of the Round Pound is a truly inspirational way to remember the late Princess.

Hence, my pursuit of him has

become increasingly shameful. "And here to review the papers, the dream team, Anne Robinson and Alan Clark," said Frostie, the other Sunday at *Breakfast with Frost*. "Oh no, I'm not here to review the papers," I insisted. "I'm here to spend quality time with my MP."

● **THE BEST** part of what, for my money, is the best political interview programme going is the

real breakfast with Frost after the show. It takes place at a T-shaped table, one floor up, within minutes of the closing credits. There is an offer of a splendid old-style British Rail fry up (Bacon, Eggs, Sausage, Tomato — the B.E.S.T.), as well as a rare opportunity to see politicians as themselves.

Here I have been endeared to Sir Norman Fowler (a remarkably good listener). Bowled over by the gentle charm of Jack Straw. And

now see Chris Patten as something of a grumpy boots.

The breakfast is also a rich source of "political" anecdotes. About Gerald Kaufman: "Not as nice as he looks". Wicked, but not original, as our scholarly MP for Kensington (eating only the E and the T) advises. It was Maurice Bowra's description of Cyril Connolly.

● **MY HUSBAND** is thinking of writing a book called *Small Talk*. He is rather good at it. I am completely hopeless and sympathetic with my friend Alicia, who is very big in the City, but once despairingly bought herself a nifty paperback entitled *What To Say After You Have Said Hello*.

Anyway, I am indebted to Mrs John Tusa for a tip I think she got from Princess Alexandra — an ingenious Royal cover-all when you haven't the foggiest idea what the person standing or sitting next to you does. Or, more importantly, if the person looks as if they mightn't do anything much at all. The

phrase is: "What are you busy with at the moment?"

Alas, the first time I have a chance to employ this new social skill is in Venice, where the Italian government, which knows the fast route to the heart of a British journalist, has organised a four-day seminar on Europe.

During a coffee break in the exquisite cloisters of the old monastery on S. Giorgio Maggiore, the distinguished author Anthony Sampson charmingly introduces himself. "And what are you busy with at the moment?" I ask brightly. "The authorised biography of President Nelson Mandela," replies Mr Sampson. Next question please, Princess Alexandra...

● **IT IS** A delight to return to writing my Diary in *The Times*. Writers readers are terrific correspondents — knowledgeable and good humoured. We have in the past discussed all manner of town and country matters. I am looking forward enormously to doing the same again.

## Pottering about at home with the Potty Prince

The Prince of Wales has transformed the gardens at Highgrove and they are now among the most important in Britain, says Jane Owen



Highgrove from the air: The Prince has spent 20 years creating the gardens and enjoys them so much that he has had an outside telephone fitted so that he can work there

The Prince of Wales has decided to add a touch of Cool Britannia to the garden scene with his latest innovations at Highgrove. Sober garden furniture is brightly painted in blues and pinks; a new garden of tree stumps, fossils and pavilions has been added, and the artist who made the futuristic steel and water sculpture at Gatwick airport has been working with the Prince.



The Prince of Wales working in his beloved garden

Highgrove is fast becoming one of the country's most important gardens and next week, for the first time, it is the model for a stand at the Chelsea Flower Show. But things haven't always gone to plan. One of its early water features was a sculpture of two whales playing in a pool. After the Wales's separation, however, this was moved from beside the house.

Charles has named himself "the Potty Prince", a reference to his apparently insatiable desire for vast olive oil pots. Even pot collecting had its difficulties, especially when one three-footer was delivered from Assisi. "When it arrived on a lorry in a large packing case it was addressed simply to the Prince of Wales, Tetbury. They took it straight to the local pub," says the Prince. There are so many pots that one sharp-tongued visitor called Highgrove "the architectural salvage garden".

Planting had its problems, too. When the Prince started work there, nearly 20 years ago, he enthusiastically mapped out lines for yew hedges and pleached hornbeams — only to find, many years later as they matured, that the hedges were uneven.

"Maths has never been my strong point. With hindsight we should have had the line of the hedge properly surveyed, but I feel this only serves to give the garden more character," says the Prince in his book, *Highgrove — Portrait of an Estate*, by HRH The Prince of Wales and Charles Clover (published by Chapman's).

And then there was the woodland landscaping scheme. The Prince says: "I spent a weekend directing a man with a JCB in an earth-moving exercise to create a sunken area in a clearing of the copse. After a great deal of gesticulating we ended up with the topsoil on the bottom and horrid clay on top. I have never been able to grow anything worthwhile there since."

But the beginner's mistakes are behind him and High-



Yews on either side of the thyme walk have been clipped into symbolic royal shapes

grove's many styles of gardening reflect some of the best of British: Miriam Rothschild's wildflower meadows scattered with bulbs to echo Botticelli's *Primavera*; woodland gardens old and new; an orchard planted with rare apples; the feucoid potager: Rosemary Verey's cottage gardens and the rose or sundial garden.

The Prince says one of his earliest influences was his grandparents' garden at Royal Lodge, Windsor. George VI and Queen Elizabeth were

keen gardeners. "Over the years, they hacked through the undergrowth, cutting, clearing and planning," he says in next month's *Harpers & Queen*. "After he became King, my grandfather used to garden there sometimes, wearing his bearskin — practising for Trooping the Colour. You would hear oaths coming out of the rhododendron groves. It must have been wonderfully funny for people coming across the King wearing a dirty old pair of trousers and a bearskin."

Whether or not their influence led him to create the Highgrove sewage garden is unclear. Charles wanted to fight off "flush and forget" attitude and so has made a reed and osier bed system to treat all the sewage from Highgrove. It is surprisingly attractive. So, too, is Prince Charles's pet idea, the thyme walk. But he was given a hard time about it by "the experts".

"Using a variety of different types of thyme which I planted in random clumps each weekend from April to July 1991. The result has been so spectacular that it has forced those experts who initially derided my idea to revise their opinions," says the Prince, who has an arbour fitted with a telephone and table so that he can work in his beloved garden.

The rose garden, designed by Lady Salisbury, was a success — for a while. Then, as the yew hedges grew it became claustrophobic and Sir Roy "Secateurs" Strong was brought in to carve windows and swags into the hedges. He also topiaryised some free-standing yews into shapes like cake stands and pyramids and this inspired Prince Charles to topiaryise the golden yews on either side of his thyme walk. The Prince has made a series of symbolic royal shapes and had a bash at making Prince of Wales feathers, but nobody could see what they were supposed to be so the scheme was abandoned.

Most of the flowers and vegetables are growing well. Early carrots, lettuce and chicory are being harvested from the potager, and as you walk from the rose garden to the potager, blue carnassias are out alongside dark red tulips. "I really wanted to achieve the Queen's racing colours. It's rather good, isn't it?" he says.

The family references continue with William and Harry's thatched treehouse built into the top of an old holly tree. Prince Charles calls it Holyroodhouse after the Queen's official Scottish residence. The two frolicking whales have been replaced by a William Pye design for a millstone water feature. Pye's post-modern style gives the garden an edge on the 21st century. His latest work there is a bronze water feature for the end of the thyme walk.

But it is the potager which is the garden's *pièce de résistance*. Inspired by Villandry and designed by Lady Salisbury, its classical proportions were dictated by the original 18th-century kitchen garden.

This was quartered, each quarter divided by grass, gravel or brick paths lined with low box hedges around the beds of everything from beans to ruby chard to herbs — hellebores cluster around the base of the wide tunnels of apple blossom, golden fruited crab apples have been woven into a coronet at the centre of the garden, tunnels of sweet peas will soon scent the air and regimented lines of vegetables stripe the plot.

In harmony with his ecological principles, Prince Charles has planted thousands of trees. The latest addition to the woodland is fossil path leading to a romantic stumpy garden. Old tree stumps from Sandringham have been built into a bank as part of a circular woodland clearing with two wooden neo-classical pavilions facing each other. Inside the pillared pavilions there are study but elegant benches of limed oak (one of which can be seen at Chelsea).

Chelsea's version of Highgrove has the Prince's blessing, even if it does not include the royal blood, sweat and tears which make the grounds so personal. It is there that the future king maps out his dreams.

He says: "I have put my heart and soul into Highgrove — and will continue to do so while I can. I have also put my back into Highgrove and have probably rendered myself prematurely decrepit in the process. Creating the garden has been like a form of worship."

Which is why guests who have an interest in gardening should pack some iron rations — dinner has been known to be delayed by one of HRH's garden tours until 10pm.

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Which is why guests who have an interest in gardening should pack some iron rations — dinner has been known to be delayed by one of HRH's garden tours until 10pm.

the garden's *pièce de résistance*. Inspired by Villandry and designed by Lady Salisbury, its classical proportions were dictated by the original 18th-century kitchen garden.

This was quartered, each quarter divided by grass, gravel or brick paths lined with low box hedges around the beds of everything from beans to ruby chard to herbs — hellebores cluster around the base of the wide tunnels of apple blossom, golden fruited crab apples have been woven into a coronet at the centre of the garden, tunnels of sweet peas will soon scent the air and regimented lines of vegetables stripe the plot.

In harmony with his ecological principles, Prince Charles has planted thousands of trees. The latest addition to the woodland is fossil path leading to a romantic stumpy garden. Old tree stumps from Sandringham have been built into a bank as part of a circular woodland clearing with two wooden neo-classical pavilions facing each other. Inside the pillared pavilions there are study but elegant benches of limed oak (one of which can be seen at Chelsea).

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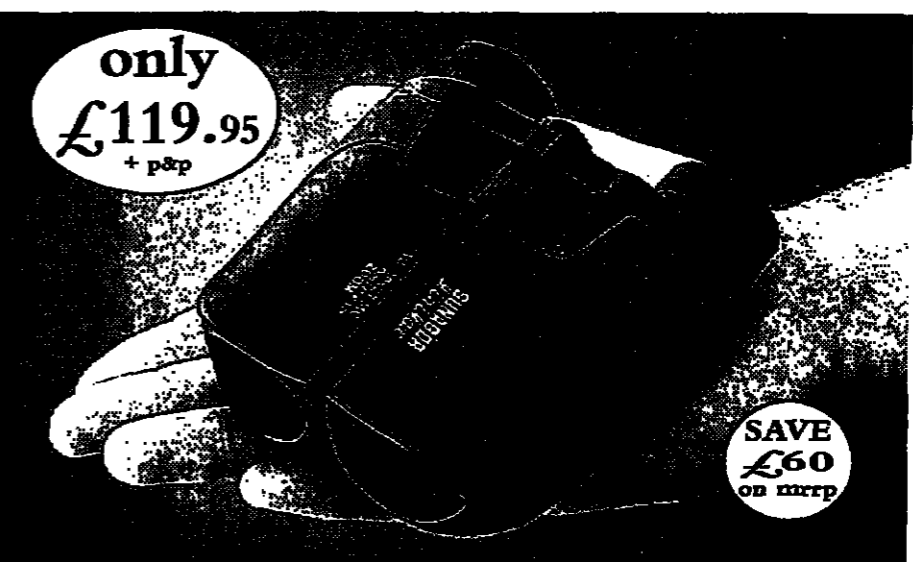
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# And I'll take a bullet-proof vest as well

The spying game is not what it used to be. Once only a select few, such as the fictional Q and his M16 boffins, could get their hands on high-tech gadgetry. Now every wannabe spy can buy surveillance equipment and the latest gizmos over the counter.

At Spymaster in London's Park Lane, would-be secret agents can kit themselves out with anything from a pair of mirrored sunglasses that give you eyes in the back of your head, to a special telephone attachment that indicates whether or not the person on the other end of the line is telling the truth. You can get an armoured car for £75,000, a bullet-proof vest in a range of colours, and tiny recorders that fit into a cigarette box.

It is here that Raymond Benson, author of a new series of Bond novels, goes in search of ideas for his latest books, browsing for inspiration among an intriguing array of cleverly disguised bugging devices, scanners, secret cameras and other state-of-the-art undercover surveillance and communications equipment.

Mr Benson, the 42-year-old former computer games designer from Chicago who has just published his second Bond book since being appointed by the Fleming estate, is particularly excited by a one-man yellow submarine. The Breathing Observation Bubble, to give it its proper name, is capable of 2.5 knots at a depth of 40ft.

Although it was designed for hull inspections, it is now a must-have accessory for the billionaire yacht owner who wants something a bit more exotic than a jet-ski tacked on the back of his floating gin palace. "The kind of thing no Bond villain should be without," grins Mr Benson, noting down the specifications and the price (£14,100).

He is also rather taken with a compact satellite telephone that folds into a pack no larger than a laptop computer. "In my next book, I plan to have Bond operating in the Himalayas. That could come in very handy," he says, moving on to admire a pair of sunglasses with a miniature video camera and microphone concealed in the frame (£3,250).

Who buys this sort of thing?

**Michael Cable joins the James Bond author Raymond Benson as he tries out gadgets at Spymaster**



Spymaster in Park Lane is full of high-tech wizardry

**my favourite shop**

"Everybody from private detectives and investigative reporters to foreign governments, police and military agencies, and people who suspect their partners of being unfaithful," says Spymaster's Lee Marks. "And when reporters and television crews are sent to cover war situations, they come here for bullet-proof vests."

Mr Marks set up shop seven years ago from his home; the spy business grew so quickly that he soon had showrooms in London's Park Lane and Portman Square. His clientele includes hundreds of ordinary businesses which keep a close grip on internal security with bugging systems — including listening devices concealed in wrist-watches, pens, books and power sockets — and cameras hidden in clocks. "Company fraud is now the second major reason for

companies going out of business in Britain," says Mr Marks, admitting that when it comes to industrial espionage, shops such as Spymaster are probably supplying both sides. "We are very discreet. We never ask our clients what they want things for."

Although he admits some customers are distinctly shady, others are simply eccentric. "We have had at least 20 separate incidents where people have come in seriously convinced that they have had bugs planted in their dental fillings or crowns and wanting to know if we can scan them."

"One man was afraid to speak but wrote on a notepad that he had a pacemaker and was sure it had been bugged. We didn't dare scan him in case it sent the pacemaker haywire." As he speaks, a man inquires about a telephone attachment to disguise his voice. "I want to sound like a woman," he adds. "The short, bearded and bespectacled Mr Benson looks disconcertingly ordinary in such an extraordinary shop. He is the third writer licensed



Raymond Benson with some of Spymaster's surveillance equipment. "This shop sells the kind of thing no Bond villain should be without"

bought a bullet-proof vest to protect her, when she was gardening, from stones thrown up by express trains on a nearby railway line.

to take up where Ian Fleming left off — Kingsley Amis was the first to have a go and John Gardner then turned out 14 Bond adventures before retiring two years ago. Mr Benson was a surprise appointment because he had never written a novel. However, he has been a Bond fan of near-anorak ded-

ication since he was taken to see *Goldfinger* in 1964, and compiled *The James Bond Beside Companion*, a compendium which won the approval of the Fleming family. "Apart from that, the computer games I designed were not unlike a James Bond novel," he says, adding that

his appointment, far from being a money-spinner, actually involved a drop in salary. As a writer who has yet to find a publisher for his first attempt at a non-Bond detective thriller, he would never pretend to be as good as Fleming, he says. "He was a master, much under-rated.

I've picked up on his world and his spirit and my enthusiasm for the character comes through. I think. My predecessors were simply hired guns — they lacked the passion."

● Spymaster, 38 Park Lane, London W1 (0171-933 6633). Open Mon-Fri 9.30am-6.30pm, Sat 10am-5pm.

**SHOP WATCH**

□ Habitat, not content with turning out design-conscious furniture, is bringing art to the people. Subscribe to the Arts Club (£15 a year) and you will get a discount card and quarterly magazine, with information on countrywide art exhibitions and private view invitations. Call Art Club on 0115 955 1599.

□ Jane Baigent Antiques will monogram linens to order, using cross-stitch in various colours. There's a big selection at Baigent's shop, including cushions made from antique linen sheets, plus elegant French and Swedish antique furniture. Find her at High Street, Stockbridge, Hampshire (01264 81137).

□ Interflora has joined the Internet bandwagon. Now you need not guess what the bouquet you are ordering will look like: select the one you like on screen, click and send, to one of 160 countries, and type your own romantic message. Find the Interflora website at [www.interflora.co.uk](http://www.interflora.co.uk).

□ Chanel, to celebrate Karl Lagerfeld's Coco Chanel camellia garden at the Chelsea Flower Show, has limited edition camellia accessories. There are flower-print bags (£48) and bikinis (£195), or pale pink camellia earrings (£115), plus a perfume, Une Fleur de Chanel. While stocks last at 26 Old Bond Street, London W1 (0171-493 5040).

□ Artisan, whose black cast-iron curtain poles ousted many a flimsy pelmet, is changing direction. See its brochure for ribbed porcelain finials and glass balls on shiny nickel poles. Call the Artisan help line for mail order on 0171-498 6974.

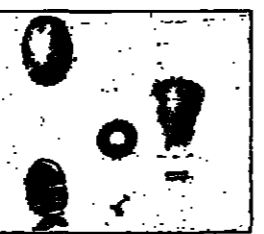
□ UPDATE: Descamps, the bedding store, has reopened with a sparkling new look at 197 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-235 6957). Tate Gallery Liverpool reopens at Albert Dock on May 23. Visit its groovy shop for Cubist postcards, art books and a café. Call 0151-709 0131.

JUDITH WILSON

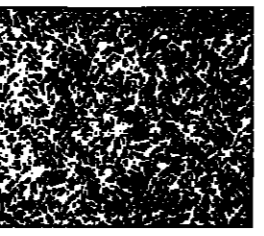


ABOVE: Glaswegian designer Jan Milne (0141-445 5554) combines blue tulips and green spirals on a purple nylon background for her latest shower curtain. One of the softest curtains, which hangs beautifully, £49 (p&p £2.50). 180 x 150cm

RIGHT: For £27.75 you can enjoy Sylvester and Tweedie clambering around you in full cartoon colour as you shower. In polyester from John Lewis (0171-629 7711). 180 x 180cm



ABOVE: This clear PVC cocktail curtain, £79.95, can be used in the shower or as a room divider. Its pockets are big enough to hold bathroom accessories, CDs and photographs. From The Holding Company (0171-352 1600) or The Cornish Shop (0171-589 7401). 120 x 190cm



ABOVE: Designed to look like a patch from a front lawn, the grass-print shower curtain, £25, looks good but evades strong printing fumes. From After Noah (0171-351 2610). 180 x 180cm



LEFT: A graphic but tasteful black and white design of naked women adorns this plastic shower curtain, £25 (p&p £4.75), from mail order company Barclay & Bodie (0171-372 5705). 180 x 180cm

**Making a splash**  
**SHOWER CURTAINS**

The most innocuous household items can evoke horrific memories. Back in 1960, thanks to Alfred Hitchcock's movie *Psycho* and its famous bathroom stabbing scene, shower curtains were looked on with some suspicion. Complaints were lodged from angry parents who claimed that their children refused to shower ever again after seeing the movie.

Today, parents can breathe a sigh of relief with the arrival of transparent curtains, such as the see-through Cocktail curtain from The Holding Company, which will allow their offspring to keep an eye on the soap and an eye on the door.

For the rest of the population who see the shower curtain simply as a useful device for keeping the bathroom floor dry and hiding away from intruding eyes, it may come as a surprise to see the huge range of curtains that are available in a variety of finishes from plastic and polyester to cotton and vinyl. Purves and Purves has the word Sex sprayed across the width, implying that



ABOVE: A smattering of white daisies are splashed across clear plastic on Laura Ashley's shower curtain, £24.95. Call 0171-880 5100 for shop details or 0990 622 116 for mail order. 180 x 180cm

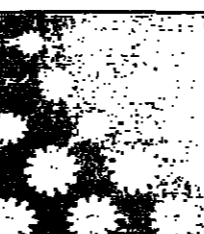
more goes on in the shower than a bit of sponging, and John Lewis has Sylvester and Tweedie curtains for the family bathroom.

Kay Quillan, the bedding and bath shop buyer for Harrods, advises the best way to keep shower curtains looking pristine is to put them in the washing machine once a month. "This reduces soap and mildew build-up," she says. "And keep them open after use to let them dry properly." Although most material curtains are chemically treated to be showerproof, she says that modern power-showers may require a separate vinyl liner to prevent the risk of water leakage.

Shower curtains generally come in two sizes, 180 x 180cm or 200 x 180cm. Harrods can order longer curtains if needed, but if width is a problem then try buying two curtains that can be drawn together in the middle. And, if your curtain hooks snap, don't worry. B&Q (0181-466 4166) sells packs of 12 plastic ones for £2.49.

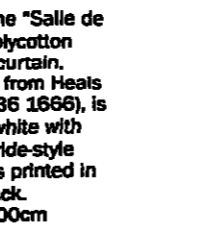
MARY ANN PERCY

LEFT: The novelty Sex shower curtain, £25, comes in black gauge vinyl. The clear plastic letters allows voyeuristic peeps of the person or persons behind. Available from Purves & Purves (0171-580 8223). 185 x 185cm



ABOVE: If you are not a morning person, thus need cheering up, the pale green Spiroella Smiles polyester shower curtain, £32.95, from Harrods (0171-730 1234) should do the trick. 180 x 200cm

LEFT: The 'Salle de Bain' polycotton shower curtain, £31.50, from Heals (0171-636 1666), is creamy white with oldie world-style bathtubs printed in blue/black. 180 x 200cm



Photographs by Des Jonson

**GADGETS**



Self-Powered Lantern

WITH worldwide sales said to be nudging 35,000 each month, there can be no doubting the success of the Freeplay wind-up radio. The radio is an especially big hit in Third World countries, where penlight battery deliveries are infrequent — if they happen at all. The clockwork mechanism allows remote communities without mains electricity to crank up enough power to listen in at any time.

BayGen's latest product is a wind-up torch, the Freeplay Self-Powered Lantern, but it lacks the radio's ingenuity. This large plastic torch can be charged using mains power or a car cigarette-lighter socket. Alternatively you can wind the handle and, as the coiled spring unfurls, it will generate enough power to illuminate the light. Cranking for 20 seconds should generate four minutes of light.

Although it is a clever idea, the fixed-beam is not great and, more importantly, it is jolly heavy. At 4lb 7oz, it is almost as heavy as a car battery — so it is not a gadget you would take on treks to the outback or up mountains. As for the Third World communities, I reckon the money would be better spent on 250 cheap lighters instead.

FlashTime is a 5in-long torch, with a light at one end and a time and date projector at the other. Perhaps it is for insomniacs who want to read in bed, or want to keep checking the time every few minutes. For the rest of us, I cannot think of a single time when you might need this.

TIM WAPSHOTT

● Freeplay Self-Powered Lantern, £91.99, from BayGen (0181 731 8052). FlashTime, £2.95, from The Gadget Shop (0181 730 8431)

Back in the fold

كنا من الأصل



Grey fine wool dress, £200, Byblos, Harrods, SW1 (0171-730 1234)



Cardigan, £195, The Scotch House (0171-581 2151) Top, £49.95, Press & Bastyan (01622 763211) Skirt, £35, Warehouse (0171-278 3491)



Left: Chifon top, £45, Giant, Selfridges (0171-543 5000); House of Fraser (0171-255 3007). Pink knie-pleat skirt, Katherine Hamnett (0171-823 1002). Grey pumps, £175, Gna (0171-235 2932) Above: Blue top, £38, cotton skirt, £45, both Tattoo, Selfridges, as before

## Back in the fold

If you thought pleats were numsky, schoolgirlish or just plain boring, this season's range of folded fabrics will be a pleasant surprise. Designers have created sexy pleated skirts which flip elegantly above the knee for evening or daywear, as well as gorgeous tailored inverted-pleat styles for more formal occasions.

The pleat, it seems, has metamorphosed from the dull little fold of fabric which epitomised good, old-fashioned plain dressing to an exciting mechanism for transforming straight fabrics into swirls of textured lines.

Issey Miyake, master of the multi-pleated garment, has always used it to add form and dimension to his creations. This week three contemporary designs created by him and painted by American artist Tim Hawkinson went on sale in Miyake's London shop, Pleats Please, proving that the days of St Trinian's schoolgirl skirts are truly over.

Miyake's is no ordinary clothes show. As well as being crafted from minutely folded fabrics, his garments are painted with extraordinary human body shapes, which give them an ultra-modern feel. One has human eyes staring out from the fabric; another a bold contour of the artist's body which he created by lying in a bath full of paint, the third a map of his figure created by plotting his measurements on graph paper.

As with all of Miyake's designs, the shapes are unusual: each garment comes in

either a plain shift shape, a bodysuit or a long dress with sleeves below the hands.

Where Miyake is leading the way this spring, other more mainstream designers are following. Helmut Lang has taken the skirt down to the knee with layers of fine chifon, silk and crepe folded in either sharp, boxy pleats or fine horizontal tucks; Marc Jacobs has full yet tailored versions in every type of pleat, from sunray to kick; Hussein Chalayan offers little drawstring shapes in uneven folds to complement a minimalist collection.

Even Matthew Williamson couldn't resist adding a delicate pleated frill to his silk crepe skirts. The pleat, he says, is ideal to give a modern finish to simple shapes.

And it is one trend that will not go out of fashion quickly — this winter we will see the pleat return to every length and shape of skirt, so it is worth investing in something that will last the year out. If designer prices are not affordable, Top Shop will have black, red, pink or blue knee-length finely pleated crepe skirts at the end of May for £28, and Dorothy Perkins has a brilliant fuchsia kilt with embroidered flowers for £45.

Those with ample hips should avoid thick pleats, which are bulky, and opt for the more flattering knee-length fine pleats instead. It is the modern school, not the Miss Marple school, we are after.

LISA GRAINGER



Pink cardigan, French Connection (0171-393 7200). Black pleat-trim skirt, £29.99, Next (0116 2849424). Two-tone ankle-strap black shoes, £30, Ravel (0171-436 3126)

Photographs: Anna Stevenson. Hair and make-up: Fiyral Arnel for Daniel Hershenson (0171-434 1747). Styling: Amandip Uppal

## The pleats profile

**Inverted:** an inward fold between two pieces of fabric — often used at the front of A-line skirts to create flow. Popular with secretaries in the Eighties.

**Box:** large and very square folds often separated by an inverted fold of fabric. Very Nineties, very Helmut Lang.

**Sunray:** start narrow at the top of skirts and flare out into wavy, zigzag shapes at the bottom. Popular with flappers in the Twenties.

**Knife:** narrow, pressed-in pleats used mainly for school uniforms. Create a lot of bulk, so good only for the androgynous — or Bella Freud models.

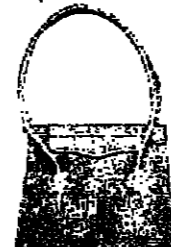
**Kick:** the little bit of fabric inserted into the front or side of a pencil skirt to allow you to walk sensibly rather than wiggle with knees together.

**Conceptual:** the Issey Miyake version, folded and scrunched in different directions to create a variety of textures.

### THREE OF A KIND

A few nips and tucks can turn an ordinary handbag into a delicately textured creation. Here are three of the best. LG

Right: Fine-pleat stretch felt bag, £45, Pleats Please, as before.  
Below: Fine-tuck leather bag, £119.5, Judith Leiber, Harrods, SW1 (0171-730 1234).  
Below right: Single-pleat satin bag, £81, Ori Kley, Farwick, Bond Street, W1 (0181-874 2701).



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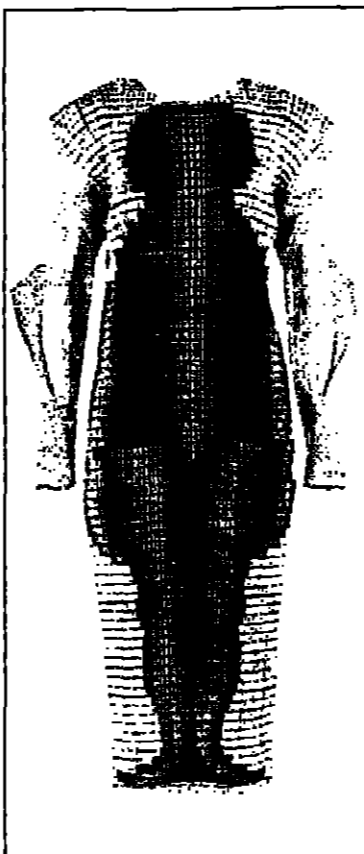
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Three designs from Issey Miyake's Pleats Please Guest Artist No 3 exhibition, painted by Tim Hawkinson  
Above: Bath-tub-generated Contour Lace shift dress, £225.  
Left: Eye Globe catsuit, £225.  
Far left: long-sleeved Hangman of My Circumference dress, £250.

From Pleats Please, 20 Brook Street, W1 (0171-495 2306)

"Don't read Nick Hornby's new book."

THE LATE BOOK concludes with Nick Hornby's 'About A Boy' the story of Will, a serial seducer with a novel chat up line and Marcus, a kid with more than enough adolescent angst. Weekday evenings, from Monday 18 May, 24.30 - 24.45.

**BBC RADIO 4**  
92-95FM & 198LW

YOU'LL SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY

The Emperor is coming and he is bringing his own tea-maker, says Joanna Pitman



Soshi Sen performs the intricate tea ceremony, which includes 131 strictly choreographed movements. The slow, balletic ritual is reminiscent of a priest at an altar

# Zen and the art of tea-making

It has been raining softly for two days and Soshi Sen is preparing himself to make tea. As the next grand master of the 400-year-old Urusenke tradition of Japanese tea-making, the procedure is more complicated than boiling a kettle and steeping some tea leaves in a pot.

He sits in silence dressed in an indigo kimono in the corner of a room in his family's 16th-century tea house. It is a square room, sophisticated in its simplicity. A single sprig of plum blossom in a plain vase and a subtle hanging scroll are its only ornamentation.

This is Japanese tradition at its best — ancient wooden beams, paper screens, tatami mats on the floor and outside, a glimpse of dripping cherry blossoms, a venerable stone lantern and the vibrant green of mosses, plump with water. With the stillness and the faint scent of paulownia wood, you feel that benefits will accrue if you just sit there.

Sen performs a deep and humble bow and embarks silently on the process. The performance — and it is a kind of balletic display — requires 131 rigidly choreographed movements, culminating in handing the bowl of frothing green tea to the guest. What makes Sen an artist and a worthy successor as grand master is the completeness of his performance, the level of concentration, the fullness of ambition, the sheer detail. The angle of his jaw, the spread of

his fingers, everything is deployed in the service of a single pressing act of beauty. While many of us spend half our life sitting at a monitor and keyboard, Sen spends half of his in meditative tea-making. When in residence at the family tea house in Kyoto, southern Japan, he spends his day performing the ceremony for important visitors. Naina (Mrs) Yeltsin, the Spanish Crown Prince and Mick Jagger have all dropped in for a bowl and a spot of meditation in the past month. The rest of the time he is being summoned to all corners of the country to demonstrate his skills and deliver his product to members of the Imperial Family, to well connected priests and occasionally to wealthy businessmen wanting to impress their clients — a traditional tea ceremony is the equivalent in the corporate entertainment stakes of a private recital of baroque music, sophisticated, exclusive and expensive.

Later this month, as part of an advance party preparing the way for the visit of the Japanese Emperor and Empress to Britain, senior representatives of the Urusenke school of tea will visit London to perform ceremonies at the British Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum. The imperial couple are expected

to take a break from their schedule for a revitalising ceremony themselves. Tea is big business in Japan. Millions of housewives, company employees, students and grandmothers find solace in the spiritual essence of the ceremony. In classrooms, community centres and town halls up and down the country, more than two million Japanese turn up every week for lunchtime or evening classes in tea-making. They find in the ceremony what others perhaps find in religion — some approximation to exaltation, inner purification and self-discovery.

Urasenke, although it dates back 400 years and is founded on unambiguously spiritual principles, is run as a business. The head office teems with harassed employees rushing around in the suits, corporate logo pins in their lapels, sales targets on their minds. With six main schools in Japan, 200 branches, 400 sub-groups and 80 overseas offices from Arkansas to Addis Ababa, Urasenke is doing a roaring business and as such is a rarity in the dim economic climate of Japan today.

"We are trying to popularise the tradition of tea. Too many young people have never worn a kimono, don't know the feel of tatami mats and don't understand Japanese tradition

and culture," says Sen. "We want to give them a chance to touch that culture and to experience the four principles of tea — harmony between man and nature, respect for others, purity of the mind and tranquility of the spirit. "It's a kind of healing in a way. The host and the guests develop a relationship during the ceremony, which usually lasts for at least an hour, and the guests can rid themselves of the stresses of the outside world. There is a religious element to what we do, too. I trained in a Zen temple for several years and teachers of tea are acting in a way that is close to that of a priest."

Certainly the utensils — the wooden tea scoop, the tea container, the bamboo whisk, the pottery tea bowl — receive the kind of worshipful attention once shown to the bones of saints. And the movements, a recognised vocabulary of gestures, illuminated by discipline and an urge for perfection, are practised until instinctive and are reminiscent of the movements of a priest at an altar.

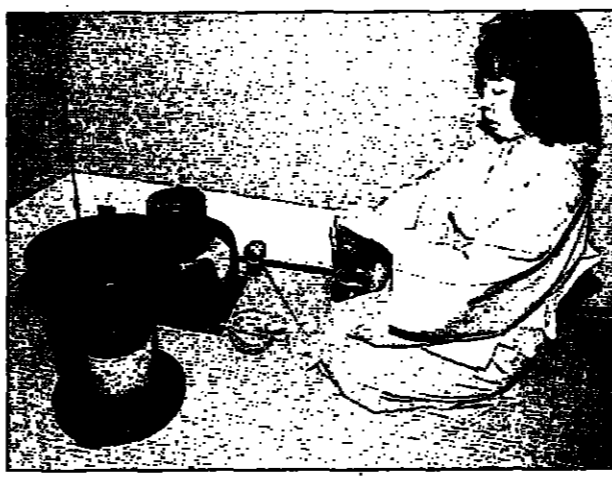
"Tea has always been my life because I grew up with it all around me. I don't see it as a job. I see it more as a duty. We are protecting a tradition, keeping it alive. When I was young I didn't think I would take up the duties of a tea master. I used to play the guitar. I wanted to be a singer. Then I studied psychology and German literature at university. But when I left and went

to study in a temple, I found that my mind changed and I recognised how important it was that I should continue this unbroken tradition. There are lots of bad sides to Japan, its nationalism, its behaviour as an economic machine, so I think it is important for us to pursue our aim of introducing the positive sides of Japanese culture to the world and give people the chance to experience this ceremony."

Imagine groups of earnest Ethiopians, Mongolians, Texans and Mexicans, kneeling on the floor for an hour in silence, grappling with the tiny tea scoop, trying to perfect the

## Yeltsin's wife has enjoyed a ceremonial cuppa

2 good aubergines (it is worth shelling out for organic ones...)



Mick Jagger enjoys the traditional way of making tea

warming of the bowl ritual, the three gestures required for folding the cloth that has wiped the ladle and the slow, quick-slow wrist dance for the whisking of the tea. And how did Mick Jagger take to the purity, the silence, the long, slow and deliberate ritual and the bitter tea at the end? "Oh, he seemed to enjoy it very much. He sat still and in silence right through the ceremony." But apparently he sat on a stool because he said his old knees would not survive kneeling on the floor. Sen's apprentices at the tea house have no such luxuries. They are up at 4am.

# Drink



## Jane MacQuitty

When in Belfast, do what the Irish do best — sing and dance, along with the young wine merchants

The grimy grey of Belfast's old docks, close to where the *Titanic* was built and launched, is not where you would expect to find one of Britain's most enthusiastic and promising wine merchants. Direct Wine Shipments, Nor would you expect to find, directly opposite the historic Harbour Office, DWS's arresting bright purple and Mediterranean-blue façade — the same brilliant colour scheme which carries through to wine list and wine bin labels.

But the 30-something and nearly-30 brothers Peter and Neal McAlindon, the latest generation in the family firm founded by their grandfather, Edward, in 1954, are not typical wine merchants. Both rejected academia in favour of wine and music. For years they played in a punk band called Peacock Strange Squad, and have recorded a song for release this year.

Having seen them at work, it is clear that music is the adjunct to wine for them, not the other way around. In a business where pompous old pin-stripes abound, it gives the McAlindons an edge on the competition in being able to serve a younger, much less-hidebound wine audience.

DWS's headquarters since 1979 is its Corporation Square Victorian warehouse, originally a grain mill. Downstairs are the bare floorboards, crowded, wide-ranging but well laid-out wine bins and teeming shelves of a mainland-style wine warehouse, but rarely seen in Ireland. Upstairs are offices, storage space and tasting rooms and the top floor is a vast tasting hall with a splendid Brazilian floor made from the timbers of dismantled ships, whose cargoes were discharged here.

The McAlindons originally concentrated on importing hogsheds of sherry and the like and bottling them to sell to their conservative 1950s customers. A new 1960s generation wanted more cosmopolitan wines and thanks to a well-travelled diplomat uncle, Denis McAlindon, DWS was soon importing a unique range of Italian wines, with small French growers' bottles following on.

Since the 1980s wine education has been one of DWS's strengths and the McAlindons were the first in Ireland to offer tutored tasting evenings and wine makers' dinners to their customers. At first it was big wine names like Jean Hugel from Alsace and Max Chapoutier from the Rhône.

usefully allowing DWS to acquire the Irish agency for these houses, others following. These agency wines are still with DWS but there are a lot more besides and around a third of the half-million-plus bottles of wine the firm sells annually are bought by private customers. New customers are attracted by tutored tastings such as the forthcoming Burkin Wolf top German estate event on May 28 in aid of Amnesty International and the Kendall Jackson California winery tasting on June 4. Look out for en primeur offers and the bi-annual wine appreciation classes whose next series starts on September 24 (1998). Meanwhile, every Saturday in May make do with the free tastings at Corporation Square.

DWS's list is no slouch, either, and includes an impressive Spanish selection, especially those sensational Alvaro Palacios Priorato reds and a raft of top Antipodean bottles, including Stonier's Mornington Peninsula wines, Henschke's Barossa Valley reds and Cullen's Western Australian wines. But if you want an Aussie treat that is only available through DWS, try the magnificent Chatsfield Mount Barker reds. The 1996 Cabernet Franc is a perfumed, dusky, red fruit dream with lots of berry fruit on the finish (£8.75) and the 1995 Chatsfield Shiraz (£9.49) is finer still with lots of blackberry and myrtle-styled finesse with a sweet, minty finish. If the classics are more your thing, opt for Hugel's splendid 1996 Muscat, a top Alsace varietal with mouth-watering grapey fruit and a grapefruit zest finish, (£8.99 here). For a stunning dry wine domain aperitif, try the 1996 Domaine du Seuil, a dry white bordeaux for £6.99, full of fresh, floral oakley fruit it should be required drinking for every bordeaux wine student. Good rhônes abound here and a good summer red is the warm, cracked white-pepper spice of the 1996 Chateau des Tours, Domaine des Tours, a Vin de Pays de Vaucluse from the Rhône, well worth £4.99. This property's grand vin is the majestic 1995 Chateau des Tours Vaucluse (1999) whose ripe, liquorice-scented fruit shows what lesser Rhône appellations can do if only they put their mind to it.

Onwards and upwards for DWS and, no doubt, Peacock Strange Squad.

● DWS, 5 Corporation Square, Belfast (01232 238700).

## THE DRINKS THAT TIME FORGOT

### Lager Lovelies

IN 1992, Violet, Natalie, Lindi, Karen and Fiona, the last of the "Lager Lovelies", rolled off Tennant's canned lager production line in Glasgow. It would be but a small exaggeration to say that a nation mourned, for this black day marked the end of a Caledonian tradition inaugurated by none other than Lord Young, lately Margaret Thatcher's Secretary of State for Scotland, who in 1958 first chose from a dizzying selection of young lovelies one Venetia Stevenson to adorn his family's tinny stout.

The carrying of beers had long had greater incentive north of the border due to Scotland's then more prohibitive pub opening hours. And, indeed, what better way to round off a perfect day's drinking than to bed down for the night in a Sauchiehall Street doorway with "Dreamland" Linda, "So Lonely" Pat or "Comet" Angela? For, despite using for the most part local girls, these lovelies generally bore no

earthly resemblance to any female within a radius of several miles of their happy recipient. Surrounded by Odeon-pink tartan and dressed in highly incongruous peek-a-boo nighties or Day-Glo chintz bikinis, an ever-changing bevy of the little treasures winked lasciviously at their purchaser from beneath Ann-Margaret bouffant wigs or Norwegian exchange student pigtailers for more than 30 years, and would be asked for by the cognoscenti by name.

Their comely allure also made the Tennant's brew a firm favourite with every British squaddie sitting in his own mess from Belize to Kowloon. The final line-up smiled knowingly from tropical sunsets with the accomplished sophistication of the professional temptress, but it was twilight too for the "Lovelies" in the land of the deep-fried Mars Bar. We will not see their like again.

KATE STRONACH

## HENRY HARRIS'S CHEAT OF THE WEEK

AUBERGINES intimidate the home cook. It is the salting process that causes this unease, as well as the often leathery texture of the vegetable. When you fry it, it draws up the oil from the pan, adding greasiness to its repertoire. But don't be intimidated; all that is required when buying aubergines is an eye for the "odd". Try Eastern Mediterranean grocers for those that have been grown for flavour rather than colour. Aubergines should not be a neat long cylinder but rather a round egg shape and purple-coloured. Originally they were white, hence the name eggplant.

This is my version of Baba Ganoush and will convert any aubergine hater. It is delicious with grilled pitta bread or grilled salmon or tuna.

I large clove of garlic, peeled and crushed, 1 level tsp salt, 2tbsp tahini (sesame paste), 1 generous pinch of ground cumin, juice of 1 large lemon, 2tbsp chopped fresh coriander (optional) and 75ml olive oil. Preheat the oven to 180C. Take each aubergine and hold in a gas flame, turning frequently until lightly blistered to give it a lovely smoky flavour. Then prick each of them with a knife, wrap in foil and transfer to the oven and bake for about 20 to 30 minutes or until soft. Remove from the oven, open the foil taking care of the escaping steam, split open the aubergine and scrape out the soft flesh. Place the flesh in a food processor with the other ingredients and blend in a smooth purée, add some black pepper and check the seasoning. I usually add a little more lemon juice. It's as simple as that.

● The author is head chef at Harvey Nichols fifth-floor restaurant in Knightsbridge

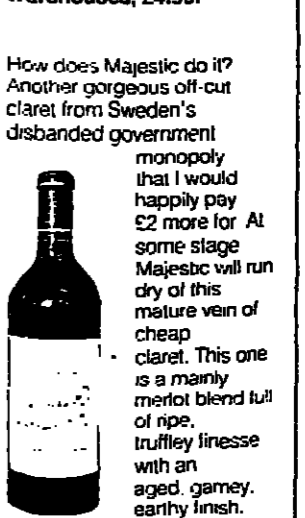
## STAR BUYS

1991 Mehringer Blattenberg Riesling, FW Gymnasium, Majestic Wine Warehouse, £3.99 but buy two for £3.49 each.



Karl Marx's old school, run by Jesuits and founded in 1563, still produces extraordinarily fine mosels which are fermented and matured in wooden casks. This ridiculously cheap bottle is full of elegant, floral, lime-scented spice with the steely finish that is one of the hallmarks of a top mosel.

1989 Chateau St Germain, Premieres Côtes de Blaye, Majestic Wine Warehouse, £4.99.



How does Majestic do it? Another gorgeous off-cut claret from Sweden's disbanded government monopoly that I would happily pay £2 more for. At some stage Majestic will run dry of this mature vein of cheap claret. This one is a mainly merlot blend full of ripe, truffle finesse with an aged gamey, earthy finish.

BEST OF THE REST Majestic's summer press have just kicked in, so disregard the champagne prices mentioned earlier this month and try two bottles of the sensational, perfumed, floral 1990 Tattinger for £27.19 each, not £33.99, and you can get six bottles or more of Laurent-Perrier and Perrier-Jouët's tasty champagnes for £16.79 and £15.19 respectively, instead of £20.99 and £18.99.

كندا من الأصل



# Go down to the woods today

Stephen Anderton reports on a campaign to get people back in touch with woods and planting trees for the millennium

How often do you walk in the woods? Strange things can happen in woods. Me, I love dark, damp woods, although they give some people the primeval creeps. But then I mistrust the open sandy birch woods of Surrey, riddled with fast roads. They make me think of newspaper reports of shallow graves.

But a walk in a wood of one's liking, in May, when the birds are singing and the trees are bursting into leaf and blossom, has got to be a pleasure. This month a programme of organised walks is being run in special and interesting woods throughout the country. A Walk in the Woods is sponsored by Esso, as part of Trees of Time and Place, a campaign to encourage people to plant trees for the millennium and beyond.

The aim is to encourage people, and especially young people, to enjoy woods and to get to know them, selecting a favourite tree (for whatever reasons), and later collecting seed under that tree to plant somewhere else. Britain is very badly off for trees, despite all our gardening enthusiasms. Since 1950 we have lost half our ancient woodlands, making Britain the least wooded area of Europe.

The Walk in the Woods campaign kicked off on May 1 with a Tibetan sang-sol ceremony, performed in Highgate Woods by Lama Khemsar Rinpoche. The things which go on in the woods of Hampstead Heath and Highgate by night and day are many and various. But the sang-sol is definitely new.

The ceremony involves fire, and fragrant plants such as rhododendron, juniper and wormwood, and a substance known as sang-sam, a mixture of roasted barley flour, honey, butter, milk and sugar. Around this Tibetan version of the Victoria sponge, there are songs and prayers, and drums, bells, cymbals, flutes, trumpets, conch-shells and banjos. Prayer flags in five colours are strung from tall poles and the prayers are "read indiscriminately by the wind which then carries the blessing unconditionally over the whole planet and its inhabitants". I hope it reaches my home in north Essex.

The aim of the ceremony is to put people back in touch with the rest of the living environment, and if performed regularly, should "defeat the presence of present and future diseases". Gosh. There are other rites too, for rejuvenating the whole of nature, and "pacifying the causes of earthquakes, volcanoes, avalanche, drought, and diseases of all kinds known and unknown". You can't say fairer than that, can you?

But Trees of Time and Place itself could not be more down

to earth. It is planting whole new woods through community involvement. So do take one of those walks in the woods. Take a woodland walk of your own. See some blue bells. Learn the small underfoot of dog's mercury or wild garlic. Grow some trees from seed and find room for them. Get the children to grow some.

In reality there is a spiritual dimension to growing trees. There is an absurd pleasure in watching a seedling emerge and develop. Trees are also a kind of clock against which human life, brief as it is, can be measured and registered. "When I was five I planted that tree, and now look at it. That tree was planted by my grandfather at the end of the war." Even the immemorial oaks have only been living in this country for 10,000 years, which, with a potential life-span of 500 years, is not really very many generations. Trees put life in perspective, as well as providing oxygen and filtering pollution.

But what tree might you choose to collect seed from? The chances are it will be something particularly large. That is how for hundreds of years French foresters have repopulated their woods after cropping, by retaining the finest "king" trees to be the seed source for the future crop. It ensures the forester has some likelihood of suitably strong trees, and it preserves trees of local provenance in situ, thus encouraging biodiversity.

This campaign to plant trees should work in a similar way, encouraging people to plant the offspring of tree species which thrive and are successful locally. Generally, native trees produce more viable seed than exotics from abroad, so the chances are the campaign will result in more natives being planted. Native trees, in their turn, can do far more for the diversity of insect life than any number of exotics.

So what will it be? A favourite oak? A beech? A field maple? Scots pine? A wild service tree or holly? If you want to encourage children to take part, it is as well to choose trees with keys or hard fruits such as maple, ash, oak and beech. Softer fruits, like holly, rowan and thorn berries, are not so straightforward because they need stratifying and a period of cold before they will germinate.

I shall have a go with the now uncommon wild service tree, *Sorbus torminalis*. It has big, almost medlar-sized berries and warm autumn colours. It grows in considerable numbers at Marks Hall Arboretum, Coggeshall, Essex, where in the past few years there have also been rarely-seen seedlings from the native small-leaved lime.



Lama Khemsar Rinpoche leading a Tibetan sang-sol ceremony in Highgate Woods. The tradition, which is more than 1,000 years' old, is a springtime purification ritual



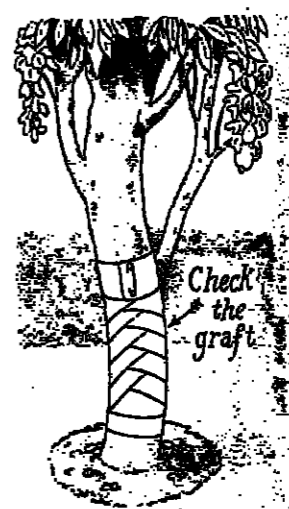
A Walk in the Woods aims to encourage young people to take an interest in trees

### WOODSFACTS

- Esso Walk in the Woods. Details of events are available on the hotline 0171-828 9928, office hours for an information pack fax 0171-828 9060.
- Trees of Time and Place (0345 078139)
- Woodlands to Visit. Information on over 700 woodlands open to the public can be obtained from the Forestry Trust for Conservation and Education publication (0118 932 3523).
- Marks Hall Arboretum, Coggeshall, Essex, is open daily except Mondays (01376 563796).

### STEPHEN ANDERTON'S GARDEN ANSWERS

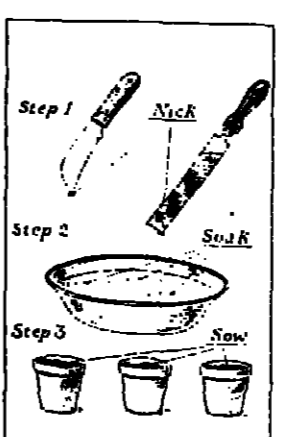
Q Four years ago I bought a wisteria a foot high. It had to stay in a pot for three years, and was reported to accommodate the roots. Last year it was put in the garden against a south wall. It is healthy but still only a foot high. Why is it so slow? — D.M. Jacobs, Colchester, Essex.



A Wisteria should not be slow. It should be up to head height in the first year. The way to get one going well is to buy an obviously vigorous young plant and get it straight into its final position, where its roots can immediately go down unhindered. Wisterias, like many other members of the pea family, hate being pot bound. Try digging yours up in October, when the leaves fall. Open up the root ball, prune some of the tangle away if it's really congested and re-plant it in a well-prepared hole. If it still doesn't grow, don't waste any more time on it. Buy another.

When buying wisterias, check that the graft just a few inches up the stem is securely bonded. They are often damaged or cracked in transit or through careless handling. Plants with a weak graft can take years to recover, if they recover at all. Sometimes a sucker simply takes over. Be very careful getting it home. It only takes one sharp knock to crack a recently made graft.

Q Six years ago I bought a potted Camellia 'Shirobotan', which I subsequently planted in the garden. But it has been disappointing, with few or no flowers, and those



which do form drop off. The soil is tight but I water well. The position is west-facing but rather dark and against a fence. — Mrs J. Wells, Rugby, Warks.

A Your camellia needs more light to make it flower generously. Move it, in October or March, to a better position, but not east-facing: in that position morning sun and frost can spoil the flower buds. Bud-drop suggests insufficient water in summer. Better than any amount of cans of water would be to enrich the soil when you replant with old compost to make a humus-rich, water-retaining soil. And then mulch again with old compost after planting.

Q Last autumn I brought home seed of the silk tree *Albizia julibrissin* from Italy. I have tried to germinate them but have had no success. Could I get a plant in the UK? — Mr R.D. Lugton, Princes Risborough, Bucks.

A *Albizia* needs baking summer heat both to make it flower and also to ripen the wood and make it hardy. Fish out your seed from the compost, and nick the seed-coat with a knife or a file. Then soak the seed in cold water for a few hours and re-sow in individual pots with plenty of warmth. Plant out with no root disturbance in the final position in June-July. If that fails, you can buy a rosea plant, which has darker pink flowers, by mail order from Burncoose Nurseries, Gwenapp, Redruth, Cornwall TR16 6BJ (01399 861112).

## A small thing, but mine own

Even a square of urban concrete can produce fresh vegetables

### BEAN POLES

- 1 Fill with compost, and leave enough space for generous watering.
- 2 Set in four 9ft canes, and pull together and tie at the top. Plant bean plants or seed at each cane.
- 3 Make a spiral of string up the canes (or several rings of string) to support the beans, and tie the string around every cane.

There is an absurd satisfaction in growing your own vegetables, which can be enjoyed by gardeners with only a patio. For some vegetables will grow happily enough in outdoor containers. You may not find yourself giving away bucket loads of produce, but what you do produce will be tasty, and fresh as fresh can be.

Pots or growbags? It is cheaper to grow vegetables in growbags than in pots. Growbags simply sit on the ground like itinerant flower beds, ready filled with compost. They don't have much style until covered in foliage.

Pots dress a patio with their height and bulk, and are more ornamental in themselves. After all, if you only have a patio, there's no point letting it look like a sack depot — make it look attractive. The choice of container partly depends on what you want to grow. Low, quick-growing crops like lettuce are perfectly happy in shallow growbags. They look in proportion too. Tomatoes or beans look better in a large container but large pots cost serious money. Choosing containers: if you want to use pots, buy large ones. There is no point messing about with anything shallower than 8in. Small pots hold too little compost, and you will be watering them forever. Plastic is fine. If you want to grow shallow, short-term crops like lettuce and radishes, you can get by, and use less compost, by choosing deep pans, containers which are significantly wider than they are tall, say 15in across by 8in deep.

All containers must have drainage holes at the bottom, or the soil will become sour, and the plants could rot. If you are worried about sooty water running across the paving (and if you use liquid feeds this can be a problem) buy deep saucers to go under the pots. Choosing compost: Vegetables which are grown for their leaves, like lettuce or ruby chard, are hungry plants. The richer the diet, the greater the volume of plant to eat. So for container growing you need a fairly gussy compost. Soil-based composts like John Innes No 2 and 3 are richer and stay nutrient-rich for longer. But in a pot they tend to compact with regular watering. So it is better to opt for soil-less composts in containers, and to be prepared to give liquid feed to longer-term crops like tomatoes, courgettes or runner beans after the first six to seven weeks.



Growbags work but large pots decorate a patio or balcony

### Growing step by step

**Lettuce**  
Sow seed thinly, ½in deep, in rows 3-4in apart in growbags or containers during May-June. Thin out the seedlings to leave them spaced 2-3in apart. When the seedlings begin to touch each other, thin again. Try 'Sherwood' and 'Tom Thumb'. Cut-and-come-again varieties 'Red Salad Bowl' and 'Lollo Rosso', will provide a longer season.

**Beans**  
Runner beans (6-8ft) and French beans (3-4ft) can both be grown in pots on suitably-sized cane wigwams, but runners are more easily and thoroughly supported when run up from the pot to a wall-mounted trellis.

Sow the seeds 2in-deep in late May, planting in pairs and weeding out the weaker plant after germination, or buy potted young bean plants in early June. Two or three plants will live together in a bucket-sized container. Leave the level of compost at least 2in below the rim of the pot, as beans are very thirsty plants and there must be space to fill up with water. A shallow saucer of water placed on the compost between the plants will keep up air moisture and encourage the beans to set.

Runner bean plants are more attractive than French beans, but French bean pods come in green, creamy yellow, and blue-black. Both kinds need liquid tomato feed, and regular picking once they are ready, to encourage subsequent flowers and pods. Try runner beans 'Galaxy' and 'Scarlet Emperor', and French beans 'Purple Teepee' (purple), 'The Prince' (green), and 'Mont d'Or' (yellow).



and 'Scarlet Emperor', and French beans 'Purple Teepee' (purple), 'The Prince' (green), and 'Mont d'Or' (yellow). Tomatoes Buy tomato plants and plant them out in early to mid-June, one plant to a bucket-sized pot, or two to three to a growbag. As the plants develop, apply liquid feed according to instructions. Try the trailing cherry tomato 'Tumbler', bush varieties 'Red Alert' and 'Roma', and with support the upright variety 'Gardener's Delight'. Carrots Sow seed of fast-cropping finger carrots thinly, in pots or growbags, ½in-deep, in May and June. Thin seedlings to 1in apart, and start cropping while the roots are still small and sweet. Try the varieties 'Amsterdam Forcing' and 'Suko'. 'Fly Away' takes slightly longer to develop, but is almost immune to carrot fly.

STEPHEN ANDERTON

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Bottles dug up in the garden

Nicholas Parsons tells Jane Owen that he has learnt how to identify many plants simply by feeling them

Nicholas Parsons will be 70 this year. His skin could pass for a 40-year-old's. His house is immaculate, his garden is immaculate, and so is he — from his red cashmere jumper with co-ordinating socks to his crisp blue slacks. Last year, this dapper appearance was temporarily eclipsed by a Rocky Horror Show stunt, in which he appeared for the cameras in fishnets and stilettos — all part of the job of course but, like every aspect of his life, when he does something he does it thoroughly.

"I used to drive myself too hard, but now I find I can achieve without expending so much energy," says Mr Parsons whose unstoppable monologue makes questioning difficult.

Naturally he is determined that his one-third of an acre Cotswold garden should be seen at its best. He asks for *The Times* photographer not to be present at the interview because his beautiful bulbs, which thrive on the limey soil, and the blossom, are over and everything is green. And the grass isn't cut. And the large box hedges aren't trim enough. And, if I absolutely insist on the photographer coming now and not later, he



Hands on: Mr Parsons planned and laid out the garden when he arrived here 12 years ago and still does most of the gardening himself. He says that the job he enjoys doing most is the pruning

# Just a touch of green fingers

## ME AND MY GARDEN: NICHOLAS PARSONS

will have to put out the geraniums — but he doesn't want to because out here they have late frosts, so he'll just have to take them all back in again after the photographer has done his stuff.

By most people's standards the garden — which is lit by a Victorian-style lamp post, is in excellent form: neat beds of heathers and dwarf conifers, lilac and pear and apple trees. But it's not excellent enough for Mr Parsons.

According to Mr Parsons, his bossy persona on Radio 4's panel game *Just a Minute* is an act. Anyway, it keeps the panellists, and me, in order. Thirty-two years after he first accepted the job as panel chairman (reluctantly — he thought he wasn't right for it) he still plays the straight man while many of the witty hooligans have moved on or been

moved. The straight man role was not new. He played it even as a youngster at home with a dominant older brother, in order to survive family life, he says. And that was one of the reasons that, long before such things were fashionable, Mr Parsons went into psychoanalysis.

"I don't like talking about it. I couldn't have survived without therapy after all the stresses of my childhood and Clydebank — where he was sent by his parents to be an apprentice engineer. "I mean, can you imagine? Then the war and trying to get out of one profession and into acting.

"Facing up to yourself is a courageous thing to do, so you can live more easily with yourself and therefore with other people. I was having trouble in relationships which were not progressing and some of the jobs I did weren't working out well, and I thought, 'well, maybe it's something to do with me, maybe that didn't work because that chap couldn't work with me'.

"When I went into psychoanalysis I never told anybody because they would have thought I was a nut case."

Today gardening is one of Mr Parsons' main ways of relieving the stress of quiz programmes, after-dinner speeches, one-man shows,

international tours and a mass of work for charity, including Sense — The National Deafblind and Rubella Association — which will benefit from the gala at the Chelsea Flower Show.

"It was only after talking to Sense that I realised how much I love the sensual side of gardening, especially the tactile side. The feel of the soil. Every leaf has a different feel. I can tell an awful lot of plants just by their feel or smell. Geraniums and tomato leaves have a tremendous smell. The cool of a daffodil leaf... the softness of a lupin, the coarseness of a poppy."

Mr Parsons' garden is on a northwest slope with views of a quilt of rape fields, meadows and paddocks, copses, a small river and hills beyond. A view as only England can do views. "There was lots of rubbish when I arrived 12 years ago — old trees and things — and I took it all out and landscaped it myself," he says about the lawn behind the house in which he has planted a circular bed of heather, dwarf conifers, *Lonicera nitida* and *bergenia*, covered with a chipped bark mulch. Heather is a theme in the garden. A rockery at the edge of the garden, built by Mr Parsons,



Autodidact Mr Parsons says he gardens instinctively without reference to books

is dotted with varieties and set off by London pride, vinca, yuccas, house leeks and lavender. Cotoneaster, wisteria and roses climb the front of the stone house and a lean-to greenhouse burgeons with pink geraniums and vegetable seedlings.

To one side a herbaceous border sprouts vestigial poppies, delphiniums and hostas, and beyond, where the garden butts up to a small lane, an immaculate, empty, manured

area waits to be planted up with vegetables. Vegetables are grown under glass, too.

"Green peppers are always quite pricey and I grew lots of them last year. I love to go out and get vegetables fresh from the garden. They taste much better, especially the spinach. There is tremendous pleasure in growing your own vegetables. It is a joyous thing to do.

"I've never read a book about gardening. I do it instinctively and I watch, listen

and observe. That is how I learned to act — I never went to acting school.

"I have a mechanical side, a creative side, a gardening side and I think I'm a good actor, too. But I am remembered by some for *Sale of the Century* rather than for my more creative work."

Nicholas Parsons is a friend of Sense — the National Deafblind and Rubella Association (0171-222 7774).



A garden with a view: over paddocks and fields of rape in the very English Cotswolds

# Somewhere peaceful to go after you've been to Chelsea



The Knot Garden at the Museum of Garden History

DURING Chelsea week it is handy to have a few alternative gardens to visit after the hustle and bustle of the crowds around the show gardens. Here are two, both within walking distance, which are good for a visit at any time:

■ **Museum of Garden History**  
The Tradescant Trust, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 (0171-401 8865). Open until Dec 7 daily except Saturday, 10.30am-4pm (Sunday 10.30am-5pm). Pay whatever you can to keep the Trust going.

This tiny courtyard garden is a recreation of one made by the great Tradescant father-and-son team, both called John, and planted with specimens that would have been available in their time, the 17th century.

Plants are for sale and those in the garden are well labelled. The design is by Lady Salisbury whose husband's family employed Tradescant the elder at Hatfield House in Hertfordshire, still the family seat and still a fine garden.

■ **Chelsea Physic Garden**  
66 Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 (0171-352 5646). £3.50 This week the garden is open every day from noon-5pm although it is normally open only twice a week, so ring before you go to make sure. It is delightful to find three and a half acres, some planted with rare

## GARDENS TO VISIT

specimens, so close to central London. There is the national collection of cistus and beds set out in the traditional manner of a botanic garden.

It still has the important scientific role it has had since its inception in the 17th century when London apothecaries were trained there in herbal medicine. Now there is Garden of World Medicine which includes explanations about how plants are used medicinally worldwide. Many of the great plant-hunting names from Banks to Fortune to Hudson helped develop the garden.

The large rock garden was built by Banks from basaltic lava in the 18th century. It is probably one of the earliest in Europe and so we have it to thank for the dog's grave rockeries which dot the suburbs.

■ **Plas Newydd**  
Llanfairpwll, Anglesey, 1m SW of Llanfairpwll (01248 714795). Open until Nov 1, except Fri and Sat, 11am-5.30pm. £4.20.

Rhododendron garden closes in a couple of weeks. Please ring for details. This 40-acre garden is not open today but I include it because the dazzling rhododendron garden is open for a few weeks a year. Despite this year's impossible



Azaleas guarded by a large oak at Plas Newydd in Anglesey

weather, the spring flowers and shrubs should be looking good. But at this time of year the rhododendron garden is the most important target for visitors.

It was begun in the 1930s with various species and hybrids, including Loder King George and fortunei, and then added to in vast quantities, with plants from Bodnant.

The gentle climate, kept so by the Gulf stream, means that scented varieties like 'Princess Alice' can grow outdoors although they would normally thrive only under glass.

Closer to the house, the gardens are more formal with fountains,

clipped hedges and evergreens, and great swathes of agapanthus. Like Biddulph, which has areas called "China" and "Egypt", Plas Newydd has "Australasia", an arboretum which includes eucalyptus and shrubs from the southern hemisphere, and "West Indies" just west of the house which is planted in vibrant colours.

Apart from the plantings and the pretty house, which is by James Wyatt, the setting makes Plas Newydd unbeatable. There are spectacular views across the treacherous Menai Straits to Snowdonia.

JANE OWEN



- Earth up potatoes when the shoots are 8-9in tall to stop the tubers going green.
- Stake peas with sticks or netting. Cut shoots of asparagus, except from plants less than three years old.
- Tuck into their supports the long new shoots of previously hard pruned clematis, before they snap or stray.
- Tie in the long extension shoots of climbing rose as they expand.
- Watch for and deal with slug damage. Keep an eye on tall-leaf plants such as hostas and figularias.
- Bedded-out tulips may be lifted after flowering and replanted elsewhere to die down. Areas for summer bedding should be cleared of spring bedding, forked over, and lightly dressed with fertilizer.
- Where lawn weeds are a problem, May is the best month for the application of selective weedkillers. Choose a fine still day when the soil is moist. Minor infestations of lawn weeds are better spot treated with a selective weedkiller, or by careful application of glyphosate.

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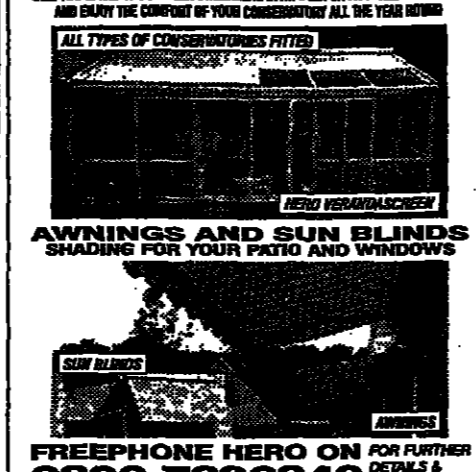
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# Business is blooming at Chelsea

On the eve of Britain's most famous flower show, Stephen Anderton goes in search of its unsung heroes

Every show has its star, and at Chelsea Flower Show the star, the prima donna shamelessly grabbing all the attention, is always the parade of show gardens, flirting with the media and flashing their competitive cut-throat smiles.

Fashion is a powerful demon but, behind the glitz, there is a great deal more to Chelsea. There is a whole supporting cast who are just as fascinating. Only we take them so for granted.

There are all those "sundries" people who, unlike the nurserymen, are allowed to sell from the show and not just take orders. Firms like sprayer manufacturer Cooper-Pegler, which has been at Chelsea since 1936, and award-winning seacater-maker Felco will have their usual array of spare parts — the kind you find in real old ironmongers, where they still exist.

In the Great Marquee, Blackmore and Langdon will have their usual New York skyline of delphiniums. But outside, with a more modest display, is the Delphinium Society, which has packets of open-pollinated seeds for sale from good new varieties. It is an excellent source of smart new stock.

Also in the big tent are the educational exhibits. They might sound a bit dry compared to an eye-fel of exotics from Barbados or Jamaica, but try them. Wye College, which helps to lead the way in

biological controls, has a stand explaining and displaying the new, foreign species of ladybirds, often spotted, which are set to become one of the latest weapons of biological control in greenhouses.

The University of Reading has a demonstration of Gertrude Jekyll's unsung awareness of optics, ecology and plant physiology. There was more to Big Gertrude than just colour theory. The exhibit recreates the roof of a garden shed in her home at Munstead Wood, where even in Edwardian times she was cultivating plants which would tolerate extreme drought.

Plus ça change! The tent always houses new varieties of rose. Wyevale Garden Centres will be showing a red hybrid tea called Pride of England, which is to be adopted as the official rose of the Football Association. (E) of the price of every rose will go to Gary Lineker's Leukaemia Busters charity. It goes on sale in September — see below.)

**Fashion is a powerful demon but, behind the glitz, there is a great deal more to Chelsea**

Another of this year's debs is 'Jilly Cooper', a pale creamy apricot cluster rose with plenty of perfume, bred by Bill LeGrice in Norfolk. Roses today have in reality two names, the second of which is also beginning to appear on the label nowadays. One kind is the selling name, chosen afresh for each country to appeal to the local market. The other name, which applies in any country, is its code name, which begins with the first three letters of the breeder's



Chelsea Pensioners look at a display of flowers. There is something for everyone at the show, from grand garden designs to people selling seeds and tools

name. Thus, on the international market, Jilly Cooper comes out as Legraam.

Up-market conservatories always pull the stops out for Chelsea, erecting their deluxe models with yards of soft furnishings. Amtega (short —

can you believe — for Ambition, Determination and Gain) has been making conservatories since 1874, formerly under the name Richardson of Darlington, when it supplied European royalty with conservatories, each structure prefabricated in Darlington and sent out from Richardson's own rail siding, with the crew who were to erect it. It still operates from Darlington today.

Chelsea is always a good place to find the latest gardening books, even second-hand ones. The Royal Horticultural Society will have its usual large stand — although not quite so comprehensive as its Wisley bookshop — and Hatchards of Piccadilly, 200 years old last year, always has a good stand, too.

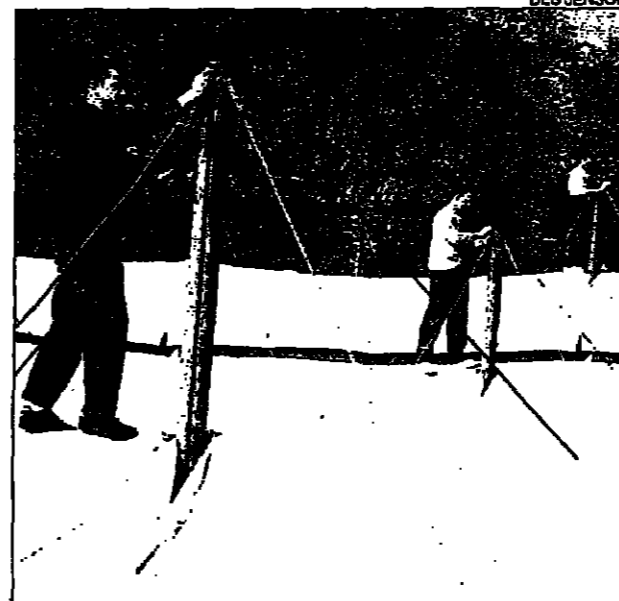
For control freaks, Simply Control sells control systems for greenhouse, conservatory and garden. Stapeley Water Gardens has a new sonic device called Heron-Watch, to scare the birds away from pools when they come to fish, and Hozelock will be launching its new automatic water-



Spotless ladybirds aiding biological control

ing control device. And there is no better place than Chelsea to look at garden furniture. If you are feeling tired, look out for the Gaze Burvill stand of English oak benches and chairs, and try one out. They are beautifully and thoughtfully made, and are comfortable in the small of the back like no other wooden bench I have ever tried.

Sit there and gaze at the hot and weary-footed passers-by. If you succumb to ordering one of these benches, you will leave a considerably poorer



Pole to pole: putting up the three and half acres of tent

man, but with great prospects for your posture and general comfort.

In the tools line, Burgon and Ball will be there with its Winged Weeder hoe, strange to look at perhaps, but a pleasure to use and something that I feel is sure to catch on.

Likewise Access Garden Products will have its range of robust and capacious aluminium garden frames on display, some with integral overhead watering systems.

Watching over everyone who goes to Chelsea will be the men who mind the big tent.



The Trinidad and Tobago stand in 1996

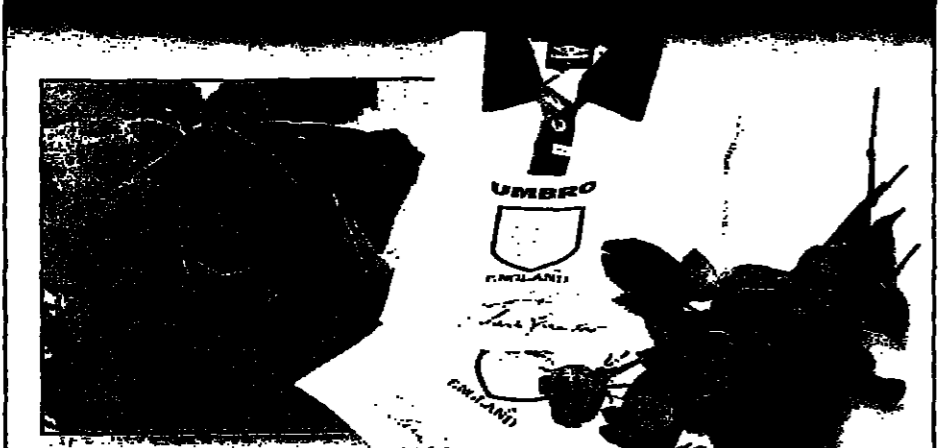
There are four tent crew keeping a weather eye on the three and a half acres of canvas. (Seven if you spread it out.) We may be praying for sunshine, but not half so much as the tent crew; how would you feel with 65 tons of wet canvas to dismantle?

● The Chelsea Flower Show, Royal Hospital Chelsea, London SW3. May 14 to 22 (Tues-Wed open to RHS members only; Thurs-Fri open to the public; Thurs 8am-8pm, Fri 8am-5.30pm; entrance £8-£25). Credit card hotline: 0171-344-4343.



A real English rose: Jilly Cooper has had a cream rose named after her this year

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A deep red bloom with fragrance, the *Pride of England* goes on sale exclusively through Wyevale Garden Centres from September. Priced at £5.99, a £1 donation from every sale will go towards Gary Lineker's Leukaemia Busters charity.

**HOW TO ENTER**

Simply send your name and address on a postcard, to arrive by Friday May 22, to: The Times/Pride of England Prize Draw, PO Box 5070, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7FZ. The winners will be chosen at random from all entries received. Normal TNL competition rules apply.

CHANGING TIMES

## Preparing for petal power

**Barbara Abbs finds amateurs' standards are high at Chelsea**

The world's most prestigious flower show opens on Tuesday. For many exhibitors their stand at the Chelsea Flower Show will be the culmination of two years' planning and can make their reputation and their fortunes overnight.

Yet not every exhibitor is a professional gardener, grower or designer. Amateur gardeners and flower lovers from around the world are in evidence and the Royal Horticultural Society expects the same high standards of presentation and horticultural skill from them as from the largest commercial concerns.

The longest queue at the show is always for the courtyard garden and hanging basket and window-box displays put on by amateur groups affiliated to the RHS. A close second is the floral arrangement marquee. The list of exhibitors there reads like a global convention. Members of flower clubs belonging to the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies in Israel, Zimbabwe, Bavaria, Australia and Hong Kong have displayed their talent in previous years and this year will be joined by clubs from Holland, India, Japan and Jamaica.

"If only," says Mavis Sweeney of the RHS, "we could get as much enthusiasm from flower clubs in the UK." Inside the great marquee there are other groups of amateur gardeners competing with professionals for the gold medals. Members of the Alpine Garden Society, the Hardy Plant Society, and amateur growers of bonsai, carnivorous plants, chrysanthemums and orchids have been busy all week assembling their displays. Gardeners from clubs in Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados will be exhibiting

their magnificent indigenous flora which has had to be selected, boxed up and then flown across the Atlantic.

Traffic across the Atlantic is not all one way, however. The enterprise and determination needed by overseas groups have been matched this year, but in the reverse direction by vegetable grower Medwyn Williams. Mr Williams from North Wales grows splendid displays of different vegetables — this year there will be more than 40 varieties, including salad blue potatoes and possibly pink aubergines from America — and has won gold medals in the two years he has been solo.

Before that he exhibited as a member of the National Vegetable Society. Recently he exhibited in the USA and was awarded a gold medal at the Cincinnati Flower Show and won the top award from the Chicago Horticultural Society for outstanding horticultural skill and knowledge.

"They had never seen anything like them before," he says of his long beetroot, carrots and parsnips which he transported to America, and as for the 22-inch circumference onions, "they could not find a burger big enough".

If you have the tiniest of plots, the Courtyard Design section is the place to go and see what marvels can be achieved. Dick Sellers from Bourne, in his green baize apron, is almost as familiar a figure as Alan Titchmarsh. Bourne Garden Club has been

bringing window boxes and courtyard gardens to Chelsea for ten years and has won 13 medals. This year they are recreating a Victorian garden using Mr Sellers's own handmade Victorian edging tiles and Versailles planting boxes. "It isn't the awards we're interested in but the involvement," he says.

Sheila Fishwick, of Marshalswick Horticultural Society in St Albans, designs her club's entry. This year it is a courtyard garden complete with flint wall (flints dug up by members from their gardens at Ms Fishwick's direction) and with every plant home-grown. Thirty-three members have been involved. Ms Fishwick has been designing the garden for six years and before that was involved with the Window Box and Hanging Basket exhibit for three years. The society has six medals but no coveted gold.

Affiliated societies cannot just enter a courtyard design and be allotted a space. A society has to have a track record of success in this section and can then apply to submit a design to be approved by the RHS.

It is all quite nerve-racking but, as Ms Fishwick says, "I get a real buzz out of it. It's exciting to put something on paper and then see it all come together and work as a garden using the different contributions from the members. And then there are the comments we get from the public going past. They can relate to these gardens. I am aiming for a gold medal. I am determined to get one one day."

Filling a window box and hanging basket sounds easy compared with creating a courtyard garden or bringing flowers across the world. It is not as simple as it seems. Getting a hanging basket to



Veggie king Medwyn Williams tends to a giant leek

flower by the third week in May takes skill and dedication. Transporting the exhibit in full bloom to the show ground is another hazard. Window boxes have been known to unpeel themselves while being carried to the specially designed "mews" in the Main Avenue where they are exhibited. Plants carefully nurtured to flowering condition in greenhouses have smelt the fresh air and turned up

their toes. Whittely and aphids decide to take up residence.

None of this, however, has deterred the entrants who come from as far afield as the West Yorkshire Fuchsia Society or the Pembrokeshire Horticultural Society. As someone who once supported a swaying hanging basket for the journey from the south coast to Chelsea and was painfully challenged by the experience, I can only wish them good luck.

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# What price bricks and mortar?

Has the ripple effect been and gone? Or did it fail to materialise? Rachel Kelly analyses the current average house prices throughout the United Kingdom

The average house costs £71,285, says the Halifax building society whose figures for the first quarter of 1998 were published last week. How much bricks and mortar does that buy you across the country? Some regions are much pricier than the average. Our friends in the North pay £52,239 for the same terraced three-bedroom house compared to £104,502 in Greater London. Yolande Barnes, head of research at Savills, believes the polarisation between prices in the North and South stems from the division of the economy into service and finance sectors and the more traditional manufacturing which is in decline. "There are great disparities in earnings among social groups," she says. "Ultimately earnings drive the housing market as much as interest rates."

Andrew Jeffrey of the National Association of Estate Agents, says the much talked of "ripple effect" from London and the South East has not materialised. "Many areas of the country are yet to experience significant growth," he says, "and will continue to underperform, set against the activity expected in London and the South."

House prices continue to rise fastest in the South where they are up 12.4 per cent on a year ago. In the North, house prices continue to be depressed, with annual house price inflation rates well below the average. Here is a regional guide to what you can buy, and where.

● In the South East, the average house costs £96,300 and in Greater London it costs £104,502. Such prices are sustained by the capital's economic boom and the City, where average salaries are much higher than the £21,873 national average.

Ms Barnes says of London: "A ripple effect is taking place. Once properties close to the wealth centre start rising in price it pushes people out a little further. Chelsea in the 1950s was not a particularly good area but Knightsbridge had a ripple effect. In the 1980s this passed to Fulham, not because it had good stock, but because of the area next door. The ripple has now passed to Wandsworth."

However, there are warning signs that prices are slowing in

both regions. This rise is the lowest quarterly increase recorded in Greater London since mid-1996. Estate agents attribute this to Gordon Brown's raising of stamp duties in the last Budget and an increasing shortage of properties at the upper end of the market.

● A house in the West Midlands now costs on average £69,767, compared to £65,793 a year ago. The Midlands economy is expected to perform close to average over the next few years, says the Halifax, although the continued strength of sterling exposes the area to exchange rate rises because of its manufacturing industries. Recent diversification into new sectors such as business services should help the housing market weather the changes, although agents warn that the market could slow if interest rates were to rise.

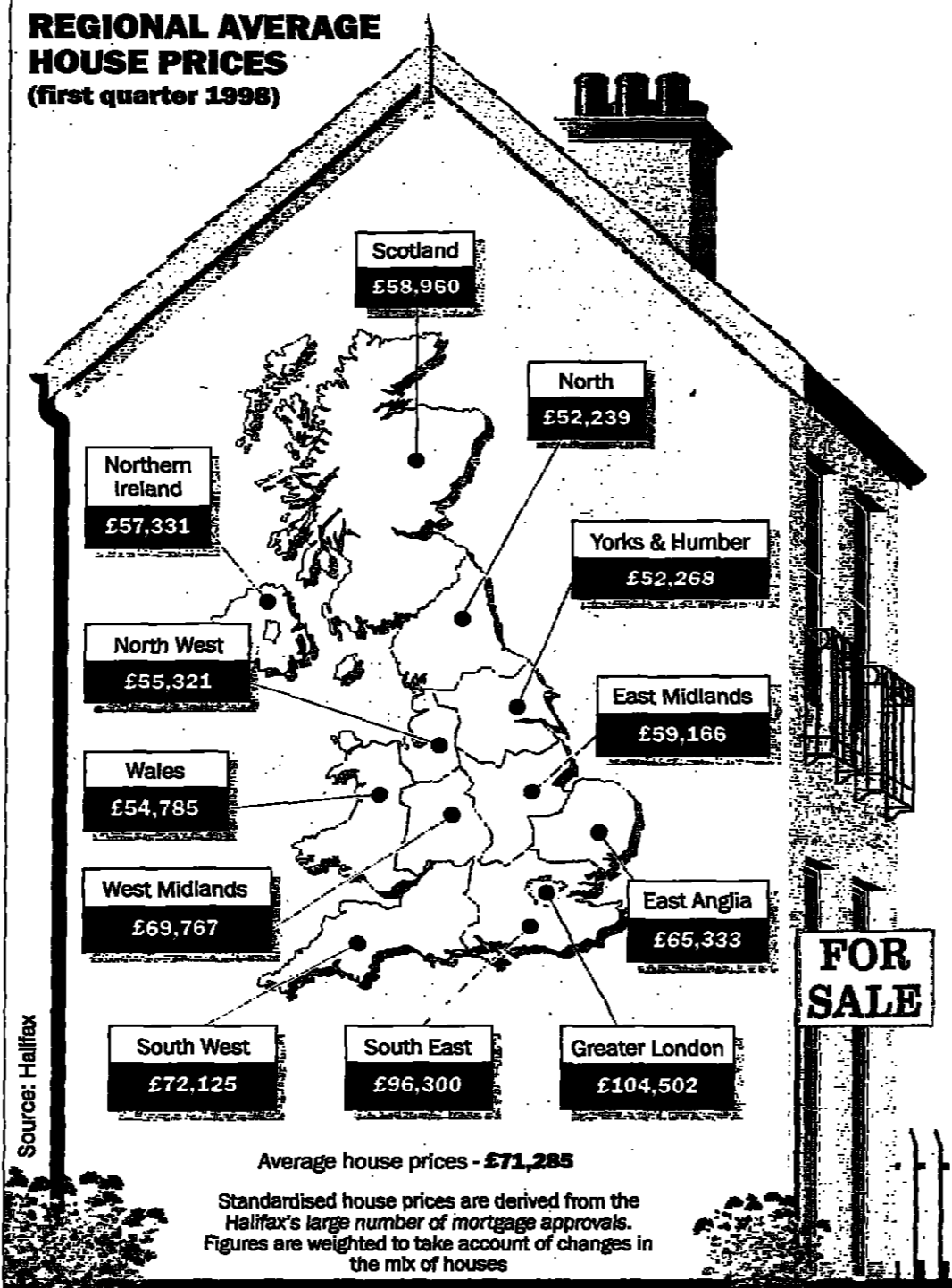
In the East Midlands the average house now costs £59,166. The average cost of buying a house in the East Midlands has risen by only £440. Like the West Midlands, the area relies on traditional industries which are vulnerable to sterling's strength, but new sectors such as business services are helping the area to diversify.

● The market is wobbly in Yorkshire and Humberside, though some city centres are prospering. In York, for example, the market has benefited from strong local economic growth in the north and west of the city. Paul Spencer, from FPD Savills in York, says that average house prices there have grown by more than 10 per cent in the last year.

Ms Barnes explains: "If there is wealth in the market it tends to go into property." Recent unemployment figures show that growth has been stagnant in the last year in contrast to much of the rest of the UK. "While there have been some positive trends, including the development of Yorkshire as a regional finance centre focused around Leeds, the region is still overdependent on industry sectors that tend to be slower growing," says a spokesman for Halifax.

● In the South West the average house now costs £72,125. In some

## REGIONAL AVERAGE HOUSE PRICES (First quarter 1998)



areas of Bristol regeneration of old properties has led to local price rises, says Savills, while local job losses on the other side of town have led to price falls.

Unemployment in the South West fell to 3.8 per cent in December last year, the third

lowest in the UK. The area is expected to be one of the faster-growing regions thanks to its ability to create jobs, and the housing market is expected to continue to reflect the area's economic vibrancy.

● The average cost of buying a

house in the North is £52,239. Tim James, Newcastle area manager of the Northeast Chamber of Commerce, says: "The North is experiencing continued growth." Foreign investment is particularly marked in the North East. But the area has much catching up to do. Since 1993,

the North has seen a weak recovery in employment. Traditionally, its economy is based on manufacturing and the service sector has been weak. House prices remain depressed and the recent cut in mortgage interest rates at source to 10 per cent will affect the region more as house prices are lower than the national average.

A spokeswoman from the Halifax says: "House prices in all three northern regions remain well below their highest levels recorded in 1991."

● To buy in the North West would cost £55,321. The area has witnessed strong recent rises in employment but is expected to show little growth this year, says the Halifax. The same is probably true for house prices.

● Buyers in Scotland can now expect to pay on average £30 less than at the end of 1997, paying £58,960. "House prices in Scotland remain fairly depressed, falling marginally by 0.1 per cent in the last quarter," quotes the Halifax Price Index report.

Growth during the economic recovery has matched national trends, but has not been matched by a strong employment recovery, says the Halifax. "The rise in house prices has been modest, but then Scotland never suffered from the housing recession which hit England and Wales."

Pockets in the capital are exceptions. In Edinburgh's centre, Georgian and Victorian terraced flats and houses are in demand. The establishment of a Scottish Parliament next year is predicted to ignite another rise in prices.

Jamie MacNab, from FPD Savills' Edinburgh office, says: "There has been a significant shortage of property to buy which has led to buyers having to pay significant premiums, between 20 per cent and 30 per cent, above the offers over asking price to secure properties at closing date prices." Mr MacNab reports a similar situation in Glasgow's West End.

● This downward trend is repeated in Wales where the average house costs £54,785, down from £59,457 a year ago. The housing market reflects the region's dependence on traditional industry, though there are exceptions, such as Cardiff.

● In Northern Ireland hopes of a lasting peace mean that house prices now stand at £57,331, up by 4.2 per cent over the past three months. Time will show whether the housing market's optimism will prove sustainable.

## Diary of a househunter

### MONDAY

It is a week since the owner of our rented place put our two-bedroom flat on the market. It has already sold for £275,000.

### TUESDAY

Things happen fast if you are selling in a desirable London area - but not if you are buying. The agents blame a lack of properties. We are looking in Earsfield, SW18.

### WEDNESDAY

Estate agents have changed since the early 1990s when I was last house-hunting. Most don't seem interested in a first-time buyer with "only" £100,000. We get a call from Anna Maria at Kinleigh Folkard & Hayward: "a flat has come on the market for £105,000. We expect it to have gone by tomorrow." Are we expected to make the biggest purchase of our lives unseen?

### THURSDAY

Make appointments to see three flats without husband.



The flats don't meet our basic requirements of ground floor, garden and two bedrooms.

### FRIDAY

The first appointment at "a spacious split-level Victorian flat with two double bedrooms" turns out to be over our budget at £115,000.

### SATURDAY

I visit a small purpose-built 1930s flat. It has no room to sit around a table and a perilous iron stairway down to a bare earth garden. The agent says "many people buy in this road specifically to send their children to the Beatrix Potter School". I feel sure we won't be among them.

EMMA MAHONY

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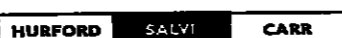


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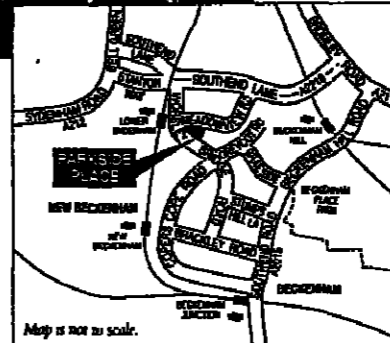
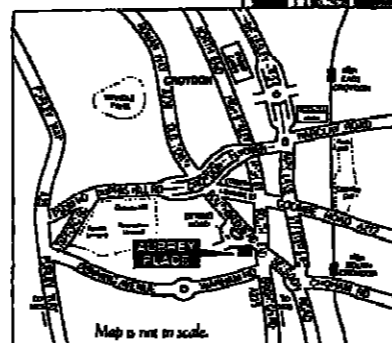


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# About that money I owe you...

**Sarah McConnell assesses the pros and cons of negotiating a deal when switching from a fixed-rate mortgage**

**H**omeowners who rushed to fix their mortgage rates at bargain basement prices two years ago, are seeing monthly bills rise sharply as the deals come to an end and lenders recalculate mortgage repayments.

Those hoping to negotiate a better deal will face swingeing penalties from lenders determined to recoup the cost of tempting borrowers in with low rates. Borrowers who signed up for loans at less than 5 per cent two years ago must stay with their lender for three years or more, paying a variable rate which has risen from a low of 0.99 per cent to 8.7 per cent, or pay a penalty.

A borrower with a £50,000 loan moving from a fixed rate of 4.95 per cent to 8.7 per cent, will see monthly payments rise from £272.70 to £363.10, according to the Woolwich.

But many borrowers who have seen the value of their property rise substantially since they fixed their loans are opting to pay penalties, add them to their outstanding debt, then find a new fixed rate. House prices across Britain have risen by 12 per cent on average over the past two years, according to the Halifax. However, in the North, Wales and Scotland, this disguises much smaller rises barely above inflation. Greater London prices, for example, have risen by 32 per cent and in the southeast by 23 per cent.

Other homeowners, particularly in London and the southeast, are struggling off higher mortgage payments or taking advantage of big capital growth to trade up, move house and renegotiate their mortgage.

Richard and Miranda Barber are moving after having seen the value of their two-bedroom home rise by 40 per cent in two years. For the past eight months, since their two-year special discount deal ended, they have been paying their Halifax mortgage at the lender's standard rate of 8.7

## BEST MORTGAGES

**FIXED RATES**  
Portman Building Society (0900 731 9136)  
6.49% fixed until May 1 2000 up to 95 per cent of the property's value. £300 completion fee. No mortgage indemnity guarantee premium for loans up to 90 per cent.

**CAPPED RATES**  
Principality Building Society (0900 454 478)  
5.65 per cent capped until August 31 2001 up to 85 per cent of the property's value. £295 arrangement fee. No mortgage indemnity guarantee premium for loans up to 90 per cent. Halifax plc (0800 101 101)  
6.8 per cent capped until August 31 2002 up to 90 per cent of property's value. Free valuation fee. £400 cashback for purchases. No mortgage indemnity guarantee premium for loans up to 90 per cent.

**DISCOUNT RATE**  
National Counties Building Society (01372 744155)  
2 per cent discount for two years. Current payable rate of 6.29 per cent up to 80 per cent of the property's value. £150 completion fee.

S.M.  
Source: London & Country Mortgages



Paul and Beth Moloney, who managed to renegotiate their mortgage, with their children Mark, six and Adam, four

per cent, with the Halifax refusing to negotiate further fixed rates.

But now they need a bigger loan, the Halifax has offered them a fixed rate of 6.95 per cent for two years without the a £5,000 penalty. Most lenders are unsympathetic to pleas from borrowers to renegotiate their rates.

Borrowers who do manage to extricate themselves from high variable rates should, however, think carefully before taking the first fixed-rate

deal they are offered, by their existing lender or anyone else. Housing experts predict that base rates will fall over the next few years as the Euro gets a grip and British rates are forced to move into line with the lower rates in most of Europe.

British base rates, currently among the highest in Europe, could fall by 1.5 or even 2 per cent giving a standard variable mortgage rate of 7 per cent instead of 8.7 per cent. This means that signing up for any

fixed-rate deal above 7 per cent could be an expensive mistake, according to Darren Winder of SBC Warburg Dillon Read.

But borrowers should avoid fixing rates for too long even at a rate of below 7 per cent, argues Ray Boulger of John Charcol. "There are several sub-seven per cent deals around for 10 years, but you need to be a bit careful because the longer ahead you fix the more difficult it is to predict interest rates and economic and political trends."

## CASE STUDY

Paul and Beth Moloney chose Alliance & Leicester's two-year fixed rate mortgage at 4.8 per cent. But Alliance & Leicester moved them to a variable rate of 8.7 per cent when the deal ended, with a penalty of six months' gross interest for moving.

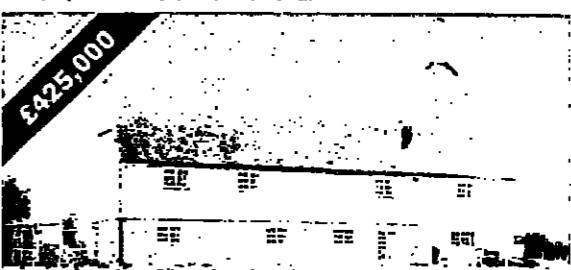
Mr Moloney persuaded the bank to calculate the penalty using the 4.8 per cent fixed rate. This cut the penalty from £4,500 to £2,600, but only if he renegotiated to another fixed rate. They accepted a two-year fixed rate of 4.75 per cent with a £2,600 penalty.

## OAST SWAP

Oast houses, originally used for the storage of hops and beer production materials, were imported from Flanders in the 16th century. Now, they are popular as country residences.

A characteristic feature of Kent, oasts are also to be found in hop producing areas of Sussex, Hampshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Oast house conversions became fashionable back in the Eighties, when buyers snapped up redundant farm buildings going cheaply, and turned them into gems of tradition and comfort. Oasts tend to be in attractive rural surroundings, and often have exposed beams, vaulted ceilings and plenty of space in adjacent barns. However, interiors are sometimes dark. There may be planning restrictions on the number and type of windows allowed, and circular rooms can be hard to heat and to furnish. Such buildings situated at the edge of a village, with good views and a paddock, will be the most valuable.

These days, trying to find an unconverted oast is like looking for a needle in a haystack. The majority were bought and converted long ago. You might find a converted oast for under £150,000, but the majority of oasts cost a great deal more. The average price is about £400,000, which buys a five-bedroom converted oast house in Kent, with an acre or two of land.



Stone Corner Oast, Stone-cum-Ebony, Isle of Oxney, Near Tenetenden. Converted oast house in 7.5 acres, on high ground with commanding views. Five bedrooms, two bathrooms (one ensuite), two reception rooms, study, playroom, kitchen/breakfast room and utility. Double garage and former stabling. About £425,000 (Calcutt Maclean Standen, 01233 812060).



Woodsen Oast, Hawkhurst. Converted oast house in 1.8 acres with views across a valley. Five bedrooms, two bathrooms (one ensuite), two shower rooms, two reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, cloakroom, sauna, three further rooms. Double garage. About £485,000 (Calcutt Maclean Standen, 01580 713250).



Spills Hill Farm Oast, Chickenden Lane, Staplehurst. Converted oast house in two acres of landscaped gardens and grounds. Five bedrooms (two with ensuite baths), shower-room, three reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, snooker room and bar. Heated swimming pool and tennis courts. About £475,000 (Page & Wells, 01622 756703).

**DORLCOTE ROAD, SW18. Freehold £775,000**  
Facing directly over Wandsworth Common and on the 'Toastrack', a detached Victorian house with a beautiful landscaped 90' garden. 5 bedrooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, separate WC and cellar. Joint Sole Agents: Douglas & Gordon 0171 924 2000.  
WANDSWORTH OFFICE: 0181 871 3033

**REGENT'S PARK TERRACE, NW1. Freehold £975,000**  
An early Victorian house, circa 1840, with enormous charm in an exceptionally fine terrace near the Gloucester Gate entrance of Regent's Park. 3 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, terrace, garden and self contained one bedroom flat.  
ST JOHN'S WOOD OFFICE: 0171 722 5556

**BERKSHIRE - Woolhampton Price Guide: £150,000**  
In a very accessible location, a charming period cottage with permission for shop use and a small walled garden. 3/4 bedrooms, bathroom, 3 reception rooms, study/bedroom 4, a small walled garden. Kitchen, utility room, cloakroom and off-road parking.  
NEWBURY OFFICE: 01635 523225

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**GLOUCESTERSHIRE - Barton End Price Guide: £230,000**  
In a popular location, a spacious south-facing cottage in a Cotswold hamlet between Tetbury and Nailsworth. 3 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, 2 reception rooms, reception hall, kitchen, cloakroom, walled garden and detached garage.  
CIRENCESTER OFFICE: 01285 642244

**OXFORDSHIRE - Sibford Ferris Price Guide: £525,000**  
In a magnificent rural area of Outstanding Natural Beauty & views over open countryside, a well presented barn conversion of 17th century origin. 5 beds, dressing room, 2 baths, shower room, 3 recep., planning permission for pool and garage, outbuildings, stables & grounds of 12.5 acres.  
OXFORD OFFICE: 01865 311522

**DOURO PLACE, W8. Freehold £1,850,000**  
Needing modernisation, a low-kill, south-facing house in a quiet cul-de-sac. 6 bedrooms, 2 dressing rooms, 2 reception rooms, study area, kitchen, pantry, scullery area, 3 cloakrooms and garden.  
KENSINGTON OFFICE: 0171 727 0705

**SURREY - Farnham Offers in excess of £600,000**  
In a secluded location on the edge of Moor Park, an attractive house in its own grounds. 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, dressing room, reception hall, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, integral double garage, outbuildings and grounds of about 2 acres.  
FARNHAM OFFICE: 01252 737115

**THORNEY CRESCENT, SW11. Lease to 2108 £335,000**  
A second floor maisonette in a modern development close to the River Thames with panoramic views and a garage. 2 bedrooms, bathroom, reception room, kitchen, entrance hall, 2 balconies and loft space.  
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Mr Porter's kindred spirit, super-sleuth Hercule Poirot



Burgh Island owner Tony Porter plans to stay in the area



Guests relax on Lloyd loom chairs in the Art Deco splendour of the palm court lounge which was used for the filming of the Agatha Christie classic, *Evil Under the Sun*

With the surf crashing on to the rocks and the wind blowing fiercely along the South Devon coastline, Tony Porter turns and smilingly addresses the assembled company: "Well, we're all here for the night, nobody will be getting off the island until morning."

This turns out to be a remarkably comforting thought. One of the nice things about islands is getting marooned on them, as long as you are warm, comfortable and close to a supply of alcohol. We are sprawled decadently in the Lloyd loom chairs of the palm court lounge surrounded by fresh flowers, trailing ferns, aspidistras and potted palms. Above is the stunning peacock-stained-glass dome ceiling. In the distance a piano player plays 1920s tinky tosh. I have abandoned *Evil Under the Sun* cocktails — a heavy mix of apricot brandy, gin, grenadine and orange — for plain brandy. We toast the ghosts of a gently decadent past. Agatha Christie wrote and set her Hercule Poirot detective story *Evil Under the Sun* here.

There are remarkably few private islands on the English coast but Burgh Island, nestled close to the South Hams district on the South Devon shoreline, is arguably the most elegant and romantic of the bunch. To find anything

# We're marooned (hurrah)

Burgh Island is on the market for £3 million.

**Tom Rowland found himself stranded by a storm in the hotel beloved of Agatha Christie, but the cocktail bar was open and he didn't complain**

comparable you really have to travel to the west coast of Scotland. Burgh is up for sale, along with the hotel and pub, at a guide price of £3 million. Tony and Bea Porter discovered Burgh Island while on holiday in South Devon in the mid 1980s. They soon decided to flee their lives in the London fashion business and bought its 26 green acres plus spectacular art deco fantasy house.

The place was down on its luck at the time, and the art deco building, erected in the 1920s by the nut-and-bolt millionaire Archibald Nettleford, founder of GKN, had been reduced to something of a wreck. It still looked immensely romantic, but required Herculean efforts to renovate. After a fierce battle, the Porters managed to secure the freehold just ahead of an auction and then began the slow and painstaking job of restoring the buildings and

## PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

opening the main house as a country house hotel, as it had been once before. Now, on Saturday nights throughout the year, the ballroom echoes to the sound of the Charleston and the Black Bottom as dinner guests in black ties and sequinned dresses dance the night away. "We like it when people dress for dinner," says Mr Porter. They sold out for the Millennium New Year ages ago.

Agatha Christie came to stay and used the setting in another book, *Ten Little Niggers*, later renamed *And Then There Were None*, while Noël Coward sparked to order at the court of the screw and washer king — Nettleford's wife was an opera singer and a bit theatrical. Each of the 14 suites has its

own sitting room and the hotel has been filled with art deco furniture and ornaments. One of the bedrooms was reputedly used by Edward VIII to seduce Wallis Simpson. When the tide ebbs you can walk to the island across golden sand. The Porters operate the 14th-century Filchard Inn on the quayside. It pays to get the timing of visits right because as the water rises, it covers the beach and only a hydraulic sea tractor will safely transport you through the waves. Add a storm or a bit of rough weather and you can be set in until the waters go down eight hours later.

The sandbar makes the island far more accessible than most. In summer, children build sandcastles on the approach at low tide, but as the water rises, the green mound rising to its rounded peak has the majesty of Lindisfarne or Iona.

The hotel enterprise was jeopardised when the Porters discovered that the access road was controlled by an aggressive neighbour on the mainland, who tried to obstruct their right of way. He leased a rundown amusement arcade and café in a set of semi-detached buildings directly opposite the hotel.

Eventually the Porters managed to buy the freehold of the arcade, served a dilapidation notice under the full repairing lease and bought the remaining term out.

The eyesore is now gone and is being replaced by a development of holiday flats, all of which have been sold off plan. "They are going to have a spectacular view over the island," says Tony. The couple have reserved the best one for themselves, a spot close by to keep an eye on their island.

● The hotel is being sold as a going concern by agents Harrods Estates (0171-225 6500). The Montalcino estate featured in May 2 is for sale through Knight Frank. (0171-629 8171)



The island from the air. The hotel was built in the 1920s by a nut-and-bolt millionaire



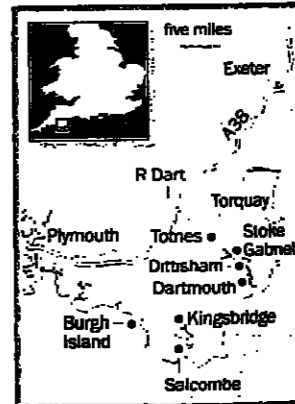
The hotel was the setting for Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*

## MARKET COMMENT

PART OF Burgh Island's charm is its location, just off the stretch of South Devon known as South Hams. The area runs from Totnes and the Dartmouth estuary west almost as far as Plymouth, and is bounded to the north by the A38 from Exeter. Blessed with picturesque villages and a very photogenic landscape, both on the coast and inland, it is unsurprisingly among the most popular (and pricey) parts of the West Country.

According to Michael Clark of Jackson Stops & Staff in Exeter, there is little choice outside the towns at below £150,000. Buyers come from all over the country and overseas; Jackson Stops reports that at least 50 per cent of would-be buyers on their books are from London and the Home Counties, with a fair proportion of the remainder from the Midlands.

The coast and the Dart and Kingsbridge estuaries in par-



ticular are in high demand, for not only do they offer fabulous views but have easy access to some of the UK's prime sailing waters. Michael Clark suggests a premium of perhaps 10 per cent for water views, and 20 per cent or more for water frontage — a relatively rare and desirable commodity. But inland properties are also sought-after, in many cases because they offer better access to the main road and the rail links at Totnes or Exeter. Popular enclaves include Dartmouth and the Dart estuary and Salcombe and the Kingsbridge estuary; inland, the area around Totnes is very popular.

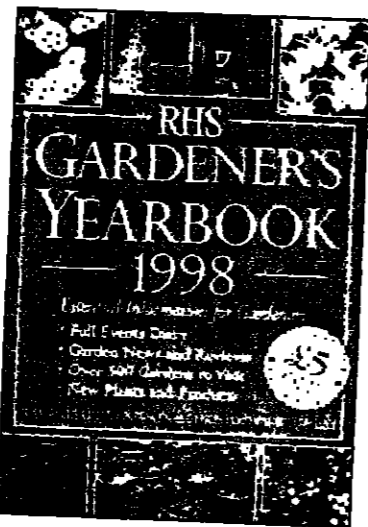
Price tags of £1 million and more go on waterfront homes with grounds — for example, the Moulton at Salcombe is on the market with an asking price of £1.2 million with Jackson Stops.

FAITH GLASGOW

## EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES Save £5 on RHS Gardener's Yearbook

Today *The Times* offers readers the chance to buy the Royal Horticultural Society's Gardener's Yearbook 1998 for just £4.99, a saving of £5 on the normal price of £9.99. This information-packed guide to what is going on where in the gardening world is a must for anyone who enjoys visiting gardens and shows. There is a comprehensive list of events and descriptions of gardens, including plants that can be obtained from European nurseries.

In addition there is information on courses for both amateur and professional gardeners as well as reviews of books and videos. There is also a section on gardening on the Internet.



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CHANGING TIMES

## Saving the earth starts at home

The grass is always greener for people who borrow from the Ecology Building Society, for the organisation lends only on environmentally-friendly homes.

The society, based near Keighley in West Yorkshire, steps in where many major lenders fear to tread and gives mortgages for homes such as suburban earth shelters or self-sufficient smallholdings. It also lends on inner-city terraces, back-to-backs and old houses in need of renovation, provided that they meet certain green criteria.

The properties should contribute towards energy-saving, help to preserve buildings and communities, or promote self-sufficiency.

### Green mortgages are at hand, writes Eve-Ann Prentice

The society, founded in 1981 with £5,000, had assets of £2.4 million by the end of last year. With a growth rate of 15 per cent last year, it claims to be one of the fastest-growing building societies in the country.

Gus Smith, the chairman, says: "In the beginning we were seen as alternative. But over the years it has become clear that more people are coming round to our way of thinking."

The society has nine board members, including two smallholders. Paul Ellis, the chief executive, says: "All are committed to energy-efficiency. I live in a 1920s semi, but when I get time I want to build a timber property in Leeds."

The society was born out of the green awakening of the mid-1970s. It voiced early concerns about the issues that have led to the current debate about where to build the next generation of homes in Britain. It aims to lend on properties that will help to offset the spread of new housing on to agricultural land, the decline of terraced housing into slums and the difficulty of financing energy-efficient or unconventional homes.

About 540 people have mortgages with the Ecology. Among its projects is a walkers' hostel planned for the Cumbrian Way, which is being set up by two teachers, and a new house in Sussex that will have a turf roof and insulation using recycled paper treated for fire resistance.

Mr Smith helped found the society after running into difficulties finding a lender to help him to renovate a rundown old house in 1974. The society's interest rate on mortgages is 7.75 per cent, which drops to 7.5 per cent when eco-friendly renovation has been carried out.

● The Ecology Building Society (0345 697758)

كنا من الأصل

office

The most ungallant challenge of all

Going great

'He was a member of one of the Bridport gangs and at his peak he made up to £3,500 a night, stealing fish as far away as Scotland'

# Official: tickling your fancy is out

Sometimes they swim away when you touch them, but mostly, if they're under a bank and they can't see you, they don't seem to mind. I use my thumb and forefinger, rub them gently behind the gills, and then squeeze hard.

This is a description of how to tickle a trout, but it will be no use to anyone reading this article, because, as the Environment Agency revealed a few days ago, tickling's going to be made illegal — part of a drive to stamp out poaching.

After reading about the proposed new bylaws, I decided to sound out a poacher and see what he thought. The man I found — who I will call "B" — wasn't that troubled: "They've got to catch you first, haven't they?" Sitting in his kitchen, surrounded by lurchers and terriers, he detailed far easier ways of catching fish than tickling. You can break into a trout farm and catch them with a handful of feed; you can shine a torch on to a river at night and stab at them with a three-pronged pick; or you can do what he did, and use a net.

Back in the Seventies and Eighties, B was a member of one of the notorious Bridport salmon-poaching gangs, which regularly terrorised the nation's rivers. At his peak he made up to £3,500 a night, stealing fish from rivers as far away as Scotland.

His gang consisted of a driver and two fishermen. There had to be a driver because it was too risky to leave a car parked up all night in salmon country. It was safer to be dropped off around midnight and picked up again just before dawn. The two fishermen would launch a small dinghy, and paddle upstream to a likely-looking pool where they'd set their nets. Then, while one man lay on his stomach in the dinghy, pulling out fish and packing them into sacks, the other would trudge back and forth, carrying the salmon to a hiding-place near the road. Each fish weighed between 15lb and 37lb, and the most B

ever caught in one pool was 49.

It was wet, icy work. "One March we were fishing the Torridge in Devon, and I got so cold I climbed into a sack to keep warm. When we tried to let down the dinghy we couldn't: the bungs had frozen. We had to pee on them to free them up."

Part of the skill of the job lay in outwitting water-bailiffs, and this meant keeping your nerve and not bolting in moments of danger. "One night we were on the Wye and a boat came down close and threw out an anchor. They had a dog, and the dog knew we were there, but

## DOWN TO EARTH



LUCY PINNEY

the people didn't. We had to keep still all night, listening to them yelling at that blooming Labrador to stop barking. We let our net off slack in the end, dropped it to the bottom of the river, and came back the next night — but the cets had eaten the fish by then." B's gang sometimes ran into other poachers too, but then attack was the best form of defence and they used the trick of pretending to be bailiffs to scare them off and steal their nets and fish.

It also gave the fish an advantage. "We used a net so fine a fish had only to push his mouth in to get tangled up, but the salmon would see it if the moon was full, and nudge their way along. They're not stupid."

Despite all his expertise, there is still a ludicrously amateurish quality to some of B's adventures. One night his gang heaped so much fish in their car that the back tyres collapsed, and then, when they redistributed the load, the exhaust snapped off. They ended up driving home sitting up to their waists in dead salmon, with the ones at the bottom of the car cooking in the heat from the broken exhaust. None of them could ever eat salmon again after that.

B was never caught, probably because he was careful not to bring any evidence home: he kept his nets elsewhere and

sold his fish to crooked game dealers in the early hours of the morning. And because he was poaching as much for the fun as for the money, he retired in 1995 when the whole business took a vicious turn and city gangs became involved. "Too many idiots started doing it, and it got violent."

Even though he was a poacher, he liked to think he had principles — and he felt it was wrong to attack bailiffs. "I respect them — they do a good job. There wouldn't be any wildlife at all if it wasn't for them." Fondling a terrier's ear, B adds wistfully: "If I had my time over again, I'd be a bailiff. I'm too old now. They want these young college boys."

He thinks the biggest threat to salmon is posed by illegal deep-sea trawlers with drift nets, catching the fish before they have a chance to swim upriver, and he doubts that poaching will ever be completely stamped out. "It's in the blood, isn't it? Whatever laws they made, we'd still do it." As for him, he's got a new obsession: he wants to acquire the skill to land a salmon perfectly legally — with a rod and line.

# The most ungallant challenge of all

The Field is asking men to behave badly, writes Lucy Pinney



Buchanan, who created the Macnab

Field sports. I've always assumed, appealed to the most staid and conservative members of society. So it was startling to read in the latest issue of *The Field* that readers were being challenged to bag a "Macnab" — catch a salmon, and shoot a brace of grouse and a stag in one day — and then further attempt a "Royal Macnab", which involves killing all these animals and seducing the cook at the shooting lodge.

What would our finest cooks, used to dealing with the upper echelons of society, feel about this cheeky suggestion? Pru Leith, the restaurateur, who worked in shooting lodges when she was younger, was more amused than shocked. "If you spend enough time plucking pheasants and gutting fish," she pointed out, quite reasonably, "the idea of bedding some handsome fellow seems quite agreeable."

Showing a fine sporting spirit of her own, she suggested that it might be possible to frame a corresponding challenge for shooting-lodge cooks. "Maybe they'd have to make a huntsman so drunk, and so heavy with food, that he couldn't possibly fulfill the fourth part of a Royal Macnab — even if he wanted to."

While admiring her good-hearted wit, I couldn't help thinking privately that a cook's challenge which more nearly captured the spirit of the Royal Macnab would involve creating the lightest and most impeccably steamed spotted dick pudding — and then rudely assaulting a sportsman with it.

It wasn't that Pru Leith couldn't be shocked or disapproving. She had serious doubts about *The Field's* definition of a Macnab. "This new Macnab sounds frightfully tame. The whole point about the one in the Buchanan story was that it was about cooking a snook at the landowner."

John Buchanan's grandson,

the Honourable John Buchanan, known as Toby, has written about his grandfather for an issue of *Shooting Times*, and he confirmed what Pru Leith had said. In the novel *John Macnab*, published in 1925, three eminent men decide to spice up their lives by poaching a salmon and two deer from separate estates.

To make the task even more challenging, they write and warn the appropriate lairds in advance, in a letter signed "John Macnab", so that they also have to outwit whole armies of alert gillies.

Like Pru Leith, Toby Buchanan disapproves of modern Macnabs. "Nowadays it's just about throwing money

'I know a lot of people who would rather share their bed with their labrador than their spouse'

around. Grouse and stags don't live near each other, so people tend to use helicopters, and the sport has grown too mechanised and expensive."

When asked what he thought of the Royal Macnab, he gave a sharp intake of breath. "My poor old grandfather would be rotating in his grave. He always maintained a distinction between sport — where people competed

against nature — and games, where they competed against each other."

It seemed a surprising objection to the Royal Macnab, but I can sympathise with Toby Buchanan's main point, that the whole spirit of John Buchanan's ultimate sporting endeavour is being horribly debased. Patrick Keen of John Macnab Limited who organises Macnab shooting

trips, told me that it's now possible to attend Macnab dinners, where instead of doing any hunting, you simply stuff your face with salmon, grouse and venison. (And, presumably, for a Royal Macnab dinner fall insensible on top of the chef.)

Helen Britton, Labour MP for Peterborough, was, like me, a little confused by the intricacies of the sporting psyche. She has also complained about the extreme and offensive sexism of *The Field* article. In a previous issue it printed a piece giving 46 reasons why dogs were better than women: "Dogs understand that all animals smaller than dogs were meant to be

hunted"; "Dogs enjoy heavy petting in public", and so on. Helen Britton says: "I know *The Field* is very old but isn't it time it modernised its journalism? This kind of humour stereotypes men just as much as women. I don't think the average man nowadays would go 'wey-hey' on hearing about the Royal Macnab."

It's a reasonable point of view. The "Dogs Are Better than Women" article does indeed espouse a strikingly dull, pre-liberation view of women. If the writer, "Ikis", really yearns for the company of females who, like dogs, love beer, think fanning is amusing, and don't care about germs, he doesn't have to look any



The Field's Macnab issue

further than his nearest Young Farmers' Club, which is probably bursting at the seams with tough, muscular country feminists of exactly this type.

In fact I suspect that the article wasn't so much about disliking women, as about confessing to another quirk of the sporting psyche: an extreme, almost troubling, preference for dogs. The editor of *The Field* endorsed this when he said: "You need to understand the relationship our average reader has with their dog. I know lots of people who would rather share their bed with their Labrador than their spouse."

In view of this bizarre preference, wouldn't it be logical for *The Field* to add an extra Macnab challenge to its list? Called, say the "Imperial Macnab", it would involve a sportsman topping off his bag of salmon, grouse and stag by making romantic overtures to the laird's favourite gundog.

# Going great guns for charity

MAY doesn't come much better than last Wednesday. There we were in a lush valley about 50 miles from London, the trees in early leaf, the sun shining, a gentle breeze blowing and the wooded slopes around us echoing to the sound of — gunfire! It was not exactly tranquil, but it was a jolly occasion: a clay pigeon shooting competition between 25 teams of four people each, with the laudable aim of raising money for the Prince's Trust.

Sponsored by Aston Martin, it had attracted a diverse and genial array of competitors — businessmen and industrialists, sportsmen, showbiz stars and the media. Mark Knopfler of Dire Straits was not among those who fancied his chances of being a prizewinner, although he was enjoying himself. "I have been coming

Celebrities lined up to shoot for a good cause

here for years," he said, "and at one time I thought I was getting quite good, but you've got to keep at it."

"Here" is the Royal Berkshire Shooting School, housed in an early 17th-century farmhouse a few miles from Pangbourne. The property was bought in 1991 by Dylan Williams who at one time was head of the Game and Wildlife department at Hampshire College of Agriculture.

"I have been shooting since the age of nine, so I have been fortunate enough to make my hobby my profession," he says. The school is financed by pupils who pay

£50 an hour to be taught or to improve their skills.

Although Mr Williams's instructors include George Digwood, four times world champion, and Jenny Jarman, a former women's world champion, he has eschewed staging what he calls "hard-nosed championships". "I don't want people to be scared away by thinking they're not up to the mark. I believe people learn more when they're enjoying themselves." Charitable contests are a different matter. Hardly had he started before he conceived the idea that fund-raisers seek sponsors to invite potential supporters out for a day's sport. The sponsors would underwrite the expenses and the participants' fees would go to the particular charity. Last year, the school staged eight

charity shoots which raised £372,000; this year it has 14.

Most of the butts, or stands, are also sponsored, as is *The Times* Tower, erected on the slopes above the valley, from which the clays are projected. Mindful perhaps that this newspaper's parent company had paid the £15,000 cost, plus a further £1,500 in sponsorship fees, Mr Williams assured me that it was unique, its extra wide platform permitting a range of projectile heights up to 150 feet.

"Last year, which was our first event, we raised £55,000. This year we are at £62,000, and the sweetstake and the auction are still to come," said Clair Southwell of the Prince's Trust.

JOHN YOUNG



Bernard Cribbins at the shoot

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# Roll over Beethoven and all blokes

It's tough being a composer and even tougher being one of Britain's few female composers. **Joanna Pitman** talks to the women who stand up for their music

**L**ife is looking up for Britain's small and determined band of female composers. Only this week, Karen Wilmhurst has been appointed "composer in residence" on the River Stour in Dorset. She will be composing music for *Confluence*, a element of a three-year festival on and around the river organised by the arts and environmental charity Common Ground which has won a £390,000 lottery grant for the event.

And next week Westminster Cathedral will echo to spiritual rhythms of a brand-new Mass by Roxanna Panufnik in honour of Cardinal Hume's 75th birthday. When Ms Panufnik, 26, was given the prestigious commission, she was thrilled — but then, she says: "I thought 'Help. Am I up to it?'"

"I'm not a militant Catholic, although I do go to Mass every Sunday. I used sometimes to imagine musical accompaniments for the words, but apart from that I didn't know where to begin."

Eventually Ms Panufnik decided to "do time". She did her time at a convent at Stanbrook Abbey in Worcestershire, an enclosed order of 34 nuns, some of whom have not been out of the convent for 30 years. "It's a staggeringly beautiful place, just at the foot of the Malvern Hills. And the plainness they sang every day was amazing. Sister Rafael took me under her wing and turned out to be a wonderful muse. She was inspirational."

Ms Panufnik returned to London after her retreat, took more theological instruction, listened to every Mass she could get her hands on and then wrote the piece on and off over ten months. "Working Mass is a very theatrical occasion. It's a performance; and I had to tailor my music to the events going on in the service. Composing is very intensive — you might work on one minute's worth of music for a fortnight and then you might need to go off and do something different such as an opera or a concerto."

Ms Panufnik cannot remember a time when she was not composing music, either in her head, on paper or on a keyboard: "I used to improvise music on my violin while



Conductor and campaigner Odaline de la Martinez



Professor Rhian Samuel



Judith Weir, composer

listening to the radio. That's how my composing began." Her father, the late Sir Andrzej Panufnik, one of Poland's most famous 20th-century composers (he escaped from his KGB minders on a West European trip in 1954 and came to Britain), has perhaps inured Ms Panufnik to any early assumptions that composing might be just men's work. Composing was the only thing she wanted to do, the most glaringly obvious thing to do. "I've never felt discriminated against on the grounds of my gender. It has never been an issue I have noticed. I'd hate it if someone commissioned me just because I'm a woman."

But then Ms Panufnik has never had to worry about a shortage of work — her rise has been swift. The one thing

that has bothered her over the years, however, is a fear that people would assume that she was slipstreaming her work behind her father's success. "Students and teachers at the Royal Academy used to make snide remarks about my name. There was a teacher who once praised one of my pieces and then asked me: 'Did your father help you? I felt sick and I got quite paranoid.' That was some years ago, and Ms Panufnik has since conquered her fears. She has a slew of serious works under her belt (a ballet for London Music, an anthem for the Royal Academy of Arts, a string quartet for the Maginot Quartet and an opera premiered by the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra), and commissions stretching into the next millennium.



Roxanna Panufnik spent time at a convent in Worcestershire to gain inspiration before writing her piece to mark the cardinal's birthday

Many women who undertake to become professional classical composers have had more of a struggle, however. The idea of earning a decent crust purely from composition is a luxury denied to all but a few — mostly figures such as Sir Harrison Birtwistle, Sieve Reich and Oliver Knussen — the male superstar composers.

Odaline de la Martinez (aka Chachi), a successful composer and conductor, has taken on the role of campaigner for women musicians because she feels that many have been shabbily treated — because of their gender not because of their music. Chachi sallies forth on to stages all over the world to conduct women performers playing women's music.

"My efforts are not an attempt to go up yours' to the male-dominated world of classical music, she says. "We do not exclude men. But they are an attempt simply to preserve some of the neglected parts of our musical heritage. Women are composing some great works and if we don't perform them this music will get lost, like so many other works by women of the past."

Not generally known for her wallflower abilities, the Cuban-born Chachi has been chipping away at the male establishment for years. She made headlines in 1984 when she became the first woman to conduct. Soon after that she set up the European Women's Orchestra to concentrate on performing compositions by women. "A lot of people said, 'Oh my God. We don't want women performers playing works by women! But it's ignorance and prejudice. This is good music.'"

Mary Henserson, a 50-something Australian composer, is another campaigner. In a recent interview she said: "They think it is a level playing field and that the only determinants of the commissioning and performing of women are those of quality and standards. The hidden agenda is status and economic value and marketability. That's where the discrimination comes in, and that is not identified by people who are non-musicians managing (commissioning and performing) organisations because they don't understand — and you couldn't expect them to."

Generalisation by gender is particularly dangerous when dealing with individualists like composers. Their work is solitary and personal. Chachi, however, one of the composition world's more pleasingly bohemian sisters, believes that women write a certain type of music, what she calls "a kind of extended voice sound, a more physical music" that makes it distinguishable from the work of men.

Younger women composers reject the idea, not wishing to be categorised. But most agree that, at the least, women should be able to offer their own distinct interpretations of the social dimension of music: its place in concert life, its message for the audience and its function in society.

Rhian Samuel, professor of composition at City Univer-

sity, London, believes — tentatively — that women make good composition teachers because teaching composition is like being a counsellor. "No one can teach you to compose," she says. "You are dealing with a student's inner thoughts, his or her personality... and because women don't generally indulge in ego trips they are perhaps more sensitive to that role than are men..."

When Ms Samuel was a student in the late 1960s she was the only woman on her course in both the British and American universities she attended. The situation had not improved when she started teaching in the US in the 1970s. "I admit that even as a postgraduate student I used to say, 'I write music, rather than I am a composer'. Today, things have changed a bit, but there are still more problems for women than for men in promoting their music."

Sally Beamish, a composer and mother of three in her late thirties, is wary about claims of injustice and is not sympathetic to the defiant embrace of creative power as advocated by some of her more feminist sisters. She has composed since she was four-years-old and has been a professional for more than ten years. Juggling composition with child care, she produces nine works a year — something akin to writing nine small novels a year — and the commissions are flooding in.

"I don't think women composers get a particularly bad deal. It's not easy making your living as a classical composer whatever your gender. I do think that most people are judged on their work these days. The only thing that some

people like to interpret as injustice is the fact that there are very few women taking up composition for some reason. At secondary school they don't seem to think it's an option for girls. Becoming a composer is regarded a bit like becoming an electrician. So there are fewer women and all the way down in age too."

Matthew Greenall of the British Music Information Centre believes there are roughly ten male composers for every female composer working in Britain. The Society for the Promotion of New Music, which shortlists pieces for promotion to external ensembles, reports that of the 400 scores submitted yearly, one quarter comes from women composers. Says Peter Crane: "More female role models are needed."

Nicola LeFanu, the 51-year-old composer of numerous operas, choral, orchestral and chamber

music works, is professor and head of the York University music department. Where the balance is in favour of women. "Of my nine graduate students in composition, eight are women," Ms LeFanu says. "Of the postgraduate students, roughly half are women. The numbers are definitely better than they were ten years ago, but maybe I see a disproportionate number of women."

Ms LeFanu is the daughter of Elizabeth Maconchy, one of the few recognised female stars of the composition world in the 1940s and 1950s. "When my mother was studying at the Royal College of Music 60 years ago, she was acknowledged as a star. But when she went out into the real world, her life changed completely and she had a tough struggle

to find professional recognition. It is so much easier for women now, and I think there is a distinct difference between the outlook of my generation and that of the new generation of young women now coming out of college."

Women in Music, an organisation founded in 1987 to "assist in raising the profile of women involved in all aspects of music and its industry", has 500 members. Both amateurs and professionals, they include composers, performers, conductors, choreographers and DJs in rock, pop, jazz and classical music.

Rachel Leach, who left the Guildhall with a masters degree last September, is 24 and typical of her generation in not wanting to be associated with groups like Women in Music. "I don't like the idea of ghettos for women composers," she says. "I simply don't want to be a feminist composer fighting against injustice, fighting for women's rights. I would prefer to be recognised for my composing abilities."

Ms Leach got a placement at the London Sinfonietta while still studying at the Guildhall, and was then commissioned to contribute a piece for the thirtieth birthday gala. "I was the only woman among five and it was always on my mind. It felt odd and unnatural. I don't know why; perhaps because I had never been in such a minority and I had to work extra hard to justify myself."

The Scottish composer Judith Weir, to many the most active and best-known grande dame of British composition today (she is among other things composer in residence at the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra), is also ambivalent about embracing groups like Women in Music and actively identifying herself as "A Female Composer". Caught between two generational schools of thought (she is 44), Ms Weir feels she owes a debt to her campaigning forerunners, and yet has no need to promote herself through any kind of women-only forum.

"I find it hard to hold rigorously to either blending in with the crowd or identifying as a female composer," she said. "My best hope for women composers is that we can find some kind of middle way. In the end, if you want a career as a composer you do have to go with the existing structures and work your way through them."

"And I do think that the more women who work their way through existing male-dominated structures, the less male-dominated they will be."

● Roxanna Panufnik's Westminster Mass will be performed on Thursday at Westminster Cathedral.

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

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**CLUES ACROSS**

- 2 Antarctic explorer, pipped by Amundsen (5)
- 4 Substance genome project is mapping (3)
- 5 Venue of next cricket World Cup final (5)
- 7 A big step forward (6)
- 8 Inspiration; all Oscar Wilde had to declare to US Customs (6)
- 11 Rhythms: conquerors (5)
- 12 US TV award (4)
- 13 Helen — blind and deaf writer and campaigner: place to drink German beer? (6)
- 16 Parachute regiment display team's nickname (3, 6)
- 17 Those who must have prizes, Dodo declared (Alice) (3)
- 18 Nelson — South African freedom leader (7)
- 20 — Bannister, first four-minute mile (5)
- 21 Tower-straightening challenge under way here (4)
- 22 Mother — former Calcutta slum worker (6)
- 23 Hillary/Tenzing conquered it in 1953 (7)

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1 In 1970, its 13th mission famously had a problem (6)
- 2 The home of golf (2, 7)
- 3 Total number of arms of Sellick-Smith piano duo (5)
- 4 Who —, SAS motto (5, 4)
- 6 Breakdown-pianist-comeback film (5)
- 7 Take definite form; make good progress (5, 2)
- 9 Peace said to be golden (7)
- 10 Pierce on a spit (6)
- 11 World War 2 fighter pilot, no legs (5)
- 14 Christopher —, paralysed Superman actor (5)
- 15 University athlete award (4)
- 16 Travelling blanket (3)
- 18 Extinct New Zealand bird (3)
- 19 Champion (3)

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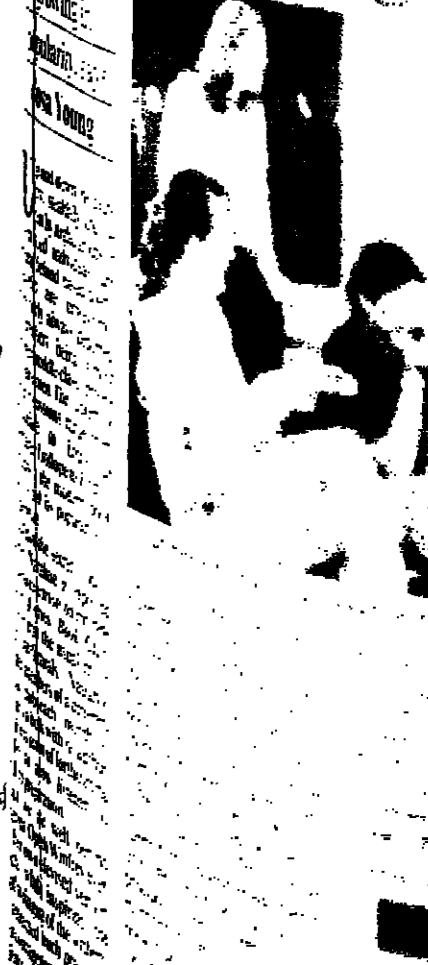
CHANGING TIMES



Sally Beamish combines child care and composing

Just nature born lose

Novel trusts gi







# Oh great. Hair of the dog

**Pet grooming may be booming but there is a shortage of trained staff. Andrew Morgan tried his hand and found the job tougher, and wetter, than he expected**



Bugs having a coal tar shampoo for sensitive skins. Afterwards she shook herself vigorously over the pet's hairdresser

**G**rooming must be a doddle, I thought. Most animals seem to do it for themselves - cats lick themselves and dogs roll in aromatic substances and hamsters don't seem to get dirty anyway. Even the Petsmart advert for trainee groomers was encouraging: "No specific qualifications required." It said: "But a vivid childhood memory of once stroking a rabbit, does not prepare you for the physical struggle of noising a wriggling dog into a bath and holding it still while trying not to get shampoo in its eyes."

"Grooming," says Melanie Winters, without a hint of irony, "can be wet, dirty, heavy work. What's required is enthusiasm, patience and a good sense of humour. There's no point in doing it if you don't love animals."

Miss Winters should know. As head of grooming with Petsmart, Britain's biggest chain of pet stores, she needs to be able to spot a likely candidate because the company is looking for 30 trainee groomers as part of an expansion plan in its 22 outlets.

The first surprise when I went to Petsmart's Newbury headquarters was the variety of pets that owners bring in to be smartened up. Great Danes and poodles are just the start of it: cats, ferrets in season (an acquired smell), rabbits, guinea pigs and even hamsters are all brought in to be washed and to have their nails clipped. And the owners are not all society heiresses and dog show fanatics. Pet grooming is also a way of monitoring your pet's health, and groomers are on the alert for lumps, sores and parasites for ordinary owners. Miss Winters explains that it can take a trainee two years to learn techniques to cope with all the styles and dogs they will encounter. For instance, dogs with a tight coat, such as a doberman, need to be washed, dried and "polished" with a hound glove.

It is not just techniques that trainees need to learn. "This job is as much about dealing with people," says Miss Winters. "Customers are trusting you with an animal which is more precious to them than anything, and you've got to know what you're doing."

After my introductory chat, it is time to let me loose on an animal. Miss Winters entrusts me with her own precious Dandy Dinmont terrier, Bugs. Bugs is an ideal subject. She has been washed and clipped so often she is about as clean as a dog can get. Any failure to strike a rapport would certainly not be Bugs's fault.

The initial brushing seems straightforward. Bugs stares



up in radiant contentment as her loose hair is removed. Maybe she knows the shower and exquisite "drying cabinets" are only a matter of minutes away. I feel that it is going well, and Miss Winters introduces me to the basics of animal temperament. Not all animals are as quiet as Bugs, she says. Dogs are unpredictable. Newfoundlanders, for example, are supposed to love water, but some hate being given a bath.

And what if the animals are aggressive? There is a muzzle, she admits, which is used occasionally for dogs which look like they might bite. But dogs are never hit, she says - that would result in instant dismissal.

With that in mind, I turn back to Bugs, who is now wallowing in suds from a coal tar shampoo, used on sensitive skins. She does not, I am told, need a conditioner - these are for long-haired creatures such as afghans but not on wire coats, like Bugs's. I rinse her thoroughly but get little thanks for my solicitude. She does what wet dogs do - shakes herself fiercely all over me. Miss Winters calmly puts a hand on her back and the cascade stops instantly.

"You're not used to bathing animals, are you?" she observes patiently. While Bugs drips dry, I look around. The occupants of the nearby cages include several gleaming ferrets and a pair of amused-looking Siberian huskies.

**A**ccording to Heather Nicholls, the Newbury supervisor (and owner of a pet rat which is not groomed because its hair cannot get wet, trainees must be prepared to be covered with hair and dog home smelling of dogs. "People may think it's fun washing and cutting hair all day, but it's very stressful," she says. "People bring in their beloved animals and expect them to be washed and groomed as they want them to look. Many don't want the orthodox trim and it's hard interpreting instructions."

These super-trained pet-loving groomers do not come cheap. Bathing, grooming and clipping an old English sheepdog costs £47 (administered, it does have a lot of hair); a bearded collie is £43, and a Labrador is £17. All dogs are perfumed with cologne.



Andrew Morgan grapples with the phlegmatic Bugs's right ear, top, and, after washing and drying, completes the process with a final groom using a fine wire brush

One hazard of grooming, I soon realise, is dog hair. Not only does it get all over you, but up your nose too. "But you just can't give up working with animals because it doesn't suit you," says Miss Winters. "Where else can you have lots of dogs to talk to?"

The faithful Bugs, having been carried in a towel from the wash-room, is now in front of a huge dryer for the final grooming. "Would I have got the job?" I ask, as Miss Winters tenderly inspects her pet. "Unfortunately, the sixth sense that you need to have to work with animals can't be taught," she says, by way of a build-up. "I'm not sure you've got it and I don't sense much empathy. You may be OK with larger dogs, but not smaller ones. We're looking for somebody with a knack for relationships with dogs - to anticipate their moods and feelings."

## Poorly pets come up smelling of roses

**Aromatherapy is more than a treat for pets - it can also help to cure serious ailments, writes Anna Tims**

**I**t's the end of a hard week and Kristin Kosowan's clients are feeling the stress. Some of them are suffering from back pain or sore muscles, others are dispirited after a week cooped up in the city. All of them are being treated to a relaxing massage with essential oils. The only unusual thing about Kosowan's practice is the clients: one week it might be a Labrador with depression, the next a stressed-out race horse or even a barnam with skin problems.

Kosowan, 29, is a pioneer in a burgeoning new field within the alternative medicine industry: aromatherapy for the domestic pet. Although there are only a handful of practitioners in the country, an association of animal aromatherapists is in the process of being established in Britain.

"It would be tempting to dismiss animal aromatherapists as a bunch of charlatans, but veterinary science does not understand enough about them or their effect," says Tim Greet, who runs an equine clinic in Newmarket. However, a growing number of breeders and pet-owners are putting their trust in natural oils. Kosowan's involvement began six years ago when a human client asked if she could do something for her Jack Russell which hyperventilated in car journeys. Kosowan concocted a potion of camomile and lavender, which worked on the pet. "At the beginning, people thought I was a witch," says

Kosowan, who now runs her animal aromatherapy company, Essentially Animals, from her home in Marlborough. "But look at wild animals - if they are hurt or ill they will seek out a cure instinctively by eating certain medicinal herbs, leaves and flowers."

She is realistic about the extent of the powers of holistic medicine and advises owners of pets with serious health problems to seek diagnosis from a vet in the first instance. "I prefer to work in conjunction with veterinary medicine as a complement rather than an alternative," she says. "Often an animal is referred to me by a vet and I will consult with vets about the animal's medical history before treatment."

Ear mites and fleas are among the most common complaints, although her collection of 300 oils can, she claims, alleviate symptoms for much more serious ailments, from arthritis to poor digestion.

Breeders flock to her before shows for mixtures to make coats glossy and eyes bright. In one case, she was called upon to make an ointment to speed the recovery of a swan with a fractured tibia. "The most rewarding part is treating animals with behavioural problems and to see them start trusting people," she says. "For a bashful cat, for example, I would give special oils to bring out its playfulness."



Kristin Kosowan with a patient. She claims that aromatherapy, used correctly, can cure animal illnesses

Each potion - a combination of oils and a gel base - is custom-made to suit the individual patient. "The gel is for localised treatment and it is water-based so it evaporates very quickly," she says. Kosowan will make up the mixture, then teach owners how to administer it themselves. She has begun a series of six-hour workshops across the country on the basics of aromatherapy. "The danger is they will read that peppermint is good for flea treatment and go off and try it out, but you can wreak tremendous harm if you don't get the doses exactly right," she says.

Word is spreading fast. Kosowan travels from Cornwall to Scotland with her wooden case of phials and she has recently had calls from horse-breeders in France and Spain following an article on her highly impressive technique with inflamed nostrils. "The best thing about treating animals is that they are far more receptive than humans to treatment. If there's one thing I've learnt it's that people pay far more attention to their animal's health than they do to their own."

Kristin Kosowan can be contacted at Essentially Animals (01672 511939).

**ADOPT ME**

TINY is an 11-year-old terrier-cross which was rescued by the RSPCA after being neglected by his owner. He has now made a full recovery and would suit an elderly couple where he would be able to receive undivided attention. Tiny is playful and affectionate and has been house-trained.

If you may want to adopt Tiny please contact the RSPCA Leybourne Animal Centre (01732 847237).

Terrier Tiny needs love

**A VET WRITES**

**Q** I saw some chipmunks in a wildlife park recently. I'm told they can be kept as pets. Is this so?

**A** Chipmunks are quick-moving, busy, attractive animals but they're not cuddly, don't enjoy being handled and they bite. I've seen relatively tame ones kept in a walk-in aviary. They would jump on to, and sit on, their owner's shoulder (or head). But the chipmunk had to make the approach - and expected to be rewarded with a grape or sultana. They feed on seeds, vegetables, fruit and nuts and their toilet habits are commendable. A small area of the cage is chosen as their latrine and they don't use anywhere else. Find out more by talking to the keeper at the wild-life park.

**Q** Our eight-year-old black Labrador is wonderful - but he raids the freezer, which is upright. The first time he managed to open the freezer door he ate 60 fish fingers without any upset to his digestion. We tried a child-proof lock but it wasn't dog proof. He managed to move a sewing machine jammed against the door. Being winning at present by putting a 6ft Victorian kitchen table against the freezer door. But that's not very convenient. Any suggestions?

**A** Obvious remedies include shutting Slave out of the kitchen when he's left alone or boxing in the freezer suggestions which might be impossible because of your kitchen layout. Changing to a chest freezer - if there's room - would solve the problem. But, if you win the freezer battle, he'll probably find another illicit food source.

**Q** A few weeks ago you replied to a letter about brown tear stains on a white poodle's face. Our long-haired cream-coloured cat, Leo, has a similar problem. I mop up the brown stains with moist cotton wool but this doesn't remove the discoloration. Is there a safe way to remove Leo's stains?

**A** Soap will help. Use one of the "safe" baby soaps which don't irritate the eyes. Cats can absorb poisonous substances through their skin and carbolic soaps or insecticides suitable for dogs are hazardous. Once the sticky gunge is washed away, diluted hydrogen peroxide dabbed on the stained hairs will bleach them. Hydrogen peroxide breaks down to oxygen and water, substances safe for Leo.

**JAMES ALLCOCK**

See our 12-page People and Pets section, in The Times today





For this week's challenge, David Bowker plays a Romantic poet but finds that the poetry is far more difficult to achieve

# On the viewless wings of poesy

When the editor challenged me to be a Romantic poet, I thought it would be easy. After all, I already have a passion for nature, moonlight and Gothic churches. Yes, I hear you say, but are you a wandering minstrel, heroic but accursed? Indeed I am. My school reports said: "David is undoubtedly heroic but accursed, but if he is to be successful in exams, he must try to be less of a wandering minstrel."

So on Sunday, I donned a scarlet waistcoat and recited Keats, Byron and Shelley. I did not bother with Wordsworth and Coleridge because Coleridge ate too many pies and Wordsworth had an enormous conk.

As a poet, I looked the part. I danced on tables and shouted: "Poetry is life! And life is poetry!" like somebody in a Ken Russell film. But try as I might, I could not come up with one immortal couplet.

On Monday, I was less inspired. I could not even think of a word to rhyme with "tickers". Knowing that the Romantic poets wrote under the influence of drugs, I went to the chemist and bought a bottle of paracetamol.

Next, I got on my knees and prayed to the blessed muse, asking her to send me a poem and explaining that I was not fussy about what kind of poem it was, as long as it lived in the hearts and minds of men for ever. Nothing happened. So I went to the pub across the road and ordered a pint. On Tuesday, I went to the Keats House in Hampstead, London, in the hope that seeing where the poet lived would unleash my dormant genius. I stared at a lock of Keats's hair, struggling to pen a fitting tribute. But all I could come up with was the following stanza:

*I'm shocked by your talent, shocked by your life  
And shocked by the way you died  
I'm mainly shocked to see that your hair  
Was a bit on the ginger side.*

All Wednesday, greatness continued to

elude me. I read how Coleridge came to write *Kubla Khan*. He took opium, fell asleep and dreamt 300 lines of a poem. When he awoke, he began to write it down. Then a man from Porlock knocked on the door and when he returned to his poem, he could only remember a few lines.

Not wishing to make fat Sam's mistake, I unplugged the phone and took two paracetamol. In no time, I had fallen into a drug-induced doze. Sure enough, while I slept I composed a truly stunning poem. When I awoke, I penned this great verse before it had a chance to fade from blessed memory:

### SEVEN LONG DAYS



*Apples, celery, computer, shoelace  
On Tuesday the milkman comes.  
His yoghurts are first rate.*

On second thoughts, what a pity I wrote these lines without interruption. There's never a man from Porlock around when you need one.

On Thursday, I suffered a violent coughing fit. I had obviously come down with consumption, just like poor Johnny Keats. It comes to all us poets in the end. So I went to Westminster Abbey and sat in Poet's Corner, hoping that if I died there they would not bother moving me.

But by closing time, I was still alive. A

grumpy attendant tapped his watch and told me to leave. However, the day was not entirely wasted. While waiting for death, I managed to pen my own epitaph:

*Here lies a man who made up jokes  
That simply were not funny  
He also wrote a column for The Times  
For not enough money.*

By Friday, I had made a miraculous recovery. Worse still, it was my birthday. My wife, not realising that I was an outcast and a wanderer, threw a surprise party for me.

When I counted the candles on the cake, I was wrack'd by deepest woe. I had now outlived the great Romantics and my chances of dying young have gone for a Burton.

Knowing my luck, I won't even manage to die tragically.



## WEEKEND COURSES AND ACTIVITIES

**MAY 22-24**  
Walking in Constable country, birdwatching, tree identification in spring watercolours. Flatford Mill Field Study Centre, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex (01206 298283). From £105 residential, £82 non-residential.

Birdwatching in the Yorkshire Dales: nature and landscape photography. Malham Tarn Field Centre, Settle, North Yorkshire, (01429 830331). From £110 residential, £85 non-residential.

Wildflowers, birdsong, walking, nature courses. Scottish Field Studies Association, Kindrogan Field Centre, Pitlochry (for more information, phone 01250 881286). From £50 for children to £91 for adults, inclusive.

Writers' workshop: goldsmithing, embroidery. Hill Residential Centre, Abergavenny, South Wales (01495 333777). £98 per course.

Croquet wine tasting: Alexander technique. At the Knuston Hall Residential College, Irchester, Northants (01933 312104). From £92 (croquet) to £122 (wine tasting) inclusive.

Shakespearean comedy. Iris Murdoch: a Russian weekend. At the University of Cambridge Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price per course, £117.

Villages of East London: Forbidden questions: art and propaganda — the patronage of the Dukes of Burgundy. 1364-1477. Wansfell College, Theydon Bois, Essex (01992 813027). From £85 per course, residential.

Kipling and Conrad. Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Four days for £228 residential, £154 non-residential.

Origins of Charles Darwin — his early life in Shropshire; naturalist and bird weekend: introduction to D-Mag and Recorder computer programs. Field Studies Centre, Preston Montford, Shrewsbury, Shropshire (01743 850380). From £135 residential.

Elgar birthday weekend. In Herefordshire with Acorn Activities (01432 830083). £175.

Designing a garden for wildlife. At the Field Studies Council Juniper Hall Centre, Dorking, Surrey (01306 883849). Price £102 residential, £78 non-residential.

Croquet Britain's Romantic age: pictures from fabric photography. Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset (01460 52427). From £115 residential, £85 non-residential.

Dinghy sailing, rigging, tacking, gybing, reefing: man overboard drill. With Sunsal! (01705 222224) at centres in England and Scotland. Two days from £80.

The Gallipoli campaign of 1915: writing and illustrating books for children; drawing for the terrific: tasting tea and coffee; improving memory. Missenden

Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks (01494 890296). Prices £159 residential, £69 non-residential.

Natural history of the Scottish Highlands: spring birds; introducing mosses. Scottish Field Studies Association, Kindrogan Centre, Pitlochry (01250 881286). From £89-£91, inclusive.

Monitoring wildlife conservation. At the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price £120 inclusive.

Hepplewhite and Sheraton furniture: spas and seaside resorts 1550-1950. Maryland College, Woburn, Bedfordshire (01525 292901). Price per course £99.

Lewis Carroll — logician, photographer and Wonderland: a pianist's journey through the 19th century. Wedgwood Memorial College, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire (01782 372105). Price per course £70 residential.

Drawing and painting, mounting and framing pictures; writing for publication; Chinese wok cookery; elementary Spanish; computers. Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Price per course £149 residential.

10/3 non-residential. Yoga weekend for everybody. Aura-Soma, Telford, Lincolnshire. From £100, inclusive. With the Ruth White Yoga Centre (0181-644 0309).

Welsh border cycle tours. With Wheely Wonderful Cycling, Elton, Ludlow, Salop (01568 770775). Price for three days — £103 for adults, £83 for children.

Piano workshop. Jackdaws Educational Trust, Great Elm, Frome, Somerset (01373 812383). Price of £110 includes full-board accommodation and tuition.

Rufforth, North Yorkshire. Four-day course £495. Jazz: poetry and prose of the 1930s; gardens in watercolour; meditation. Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire (01494 890296). Price £159 residential, £69 non-residential.

Getting to know your computer: English cottages. Pendrell Hall College of Adult Education, Codsall Wood, Wolverhampton (01902 434112). Price per course £86 residential, £60 non-residential.

Conservation gardening: natural history photography. Wedgwood Memorial College, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire (01782 372105). £70 per course. Managing stress: happy-go-lucky English. Wensum Lodge, King Street, Norwich (01603 666021). Price £84, inclusive.

Parachuting. Wild Geese Sky Diving Centre, Garvaagh, Co Londonderry (012665 58609). One-day courses leading to a static line descent, £120.

Basic blacksmithing: glass engraving; painting miniatures and silhouettes; caring for furniture. West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 811301). Price per course £150 residential. Shakespeare and Rome. University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). £120 inclusive.

Escorted walking breaks in the Peak District from the YHA Centre, Edale. Prices from £79 per person (01727 855215).

Wildlife of woodlands and wetlands: Anthony Trollope: character and morality in *Phineas Finn* and *The Eastcote Diamonds*. Wansfell College, Theydon Bois, Essex (01992 813027). Price per course £85 inclusive.

Climbing: abseiling; canoeing; sea kayaking; hill walking. The Outdoor Trust, Windy Gyle, Belford, Northumberland (01668 213289). From £83.50, including accommodation, equipment and tuition.

Working conservation weekends. National Trust Working Holidays (01285 644727). From £39.

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Batman goes to the Alps. A large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page.



Toads, finnies and trivia

Queensland - 33

THE TIMES TRAVEL

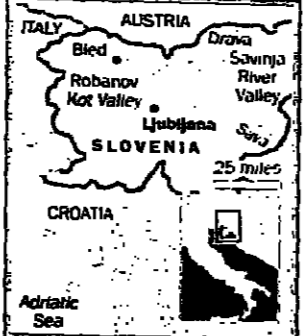
It's a small, small world

Edinburgh - 34



Batman goes to the Alps

Farm-hopping in rural Slovenia, Andrew Eames and his family found oodles of fresh food and a cuddly "bear"



Thomas, five, likes dressing up as Batman and Fireman Fred, while Rhena, three, prefers Tinky Winky and Beiner Maja...

A couple of days later, walking through Sound of Music-type countryside above the town of Nazareth...

First impressions were confusing. Our hire car was a locally-made Suzuki, but we were nowhere near Japan...

Realising the holiday making potential of its vast natural abundance, Slovenia's tourist board is now marketing the country as the "sunny side of the Alps"...

Russian (nazdarovije) but bade farewell in Italian (addio). Could this pastiche of nations be a real place at all?

Slovenia has simply never been big enough to stand up for itself. With no military or political leaders, the national heroes had to be poets and architects...

About the size of Wales, it shares borders in a clockwise direction with Austria, Hungary, Croatia, and Italy...



Rhena, three, buzzing around the Sound of Music-like Slovenian countryside, with Nazareth behind. Luckily, a local cowherd recognised Batman, five, which bridged the language barrier

We stayed for a week at a farm called Spodnji Jerovnik, two hours north-east of Ljubljana, the capital...

The only sound came from birds and bees going about their business. There can't be many places left in Europe where you can look up from a farmhouse...

They turned out to be muscular half-bred - cream and brown workhorses - stabled at the other farm a short walk up the valley...

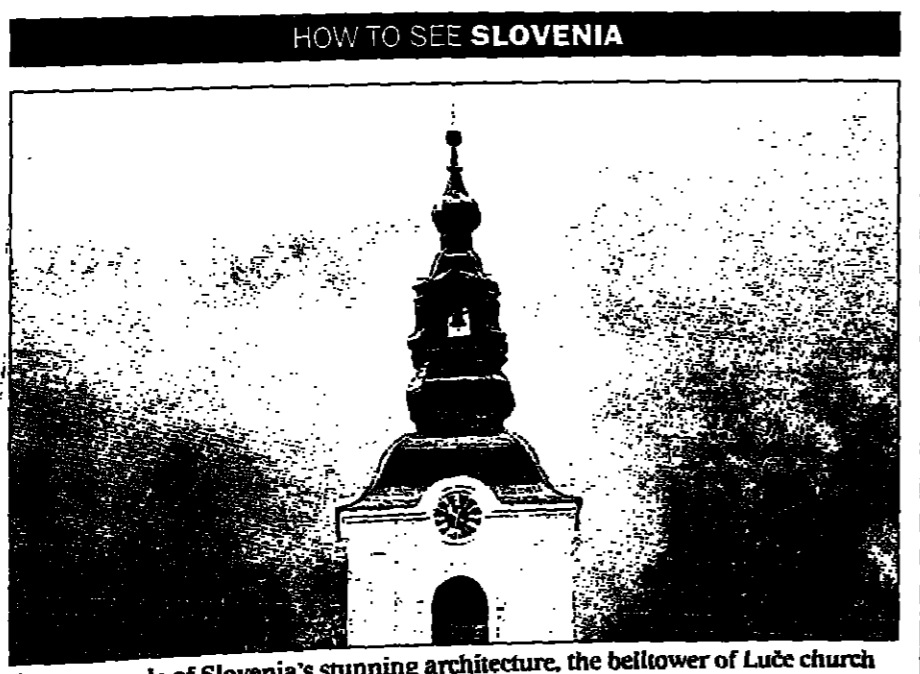
Our formidable lunch began to arrive. First the inevitable schnapps, this one made with reccurrants. Then the home-made salamis, cheese, quark and bread...



Arbajter farm had a lamb the children could cuddle

Another great day was spent on a farm in the Dravinja valley. Urška was essentially a vineyard with a few animals kept for the pot...

chest, which the vet considered too risky to remove. So now he wheezes about the vineyard, and no longer swims in the afternoon...



An example of Slovenia's stunning architecture, the belltower of Luče church

Andrew Eames travelled with the Slovenian Tourist Board (0171-287 7133). Getting there: Adria Airways (0171-734 4630) operates daily flights from Heathrow to Ljubljana from £262...

be able to speak some German; English is widespread amongst younger people, but they tend to be in the towns. Spodnji Jerovnik (63 844087); Arbajter (63 762390); Urška (63 762180); Govč (63 846092).

What you do want to do? asked Anton, as the caped crusader demanded to be twirled faster and faster on the farm's version of Alton Towers...

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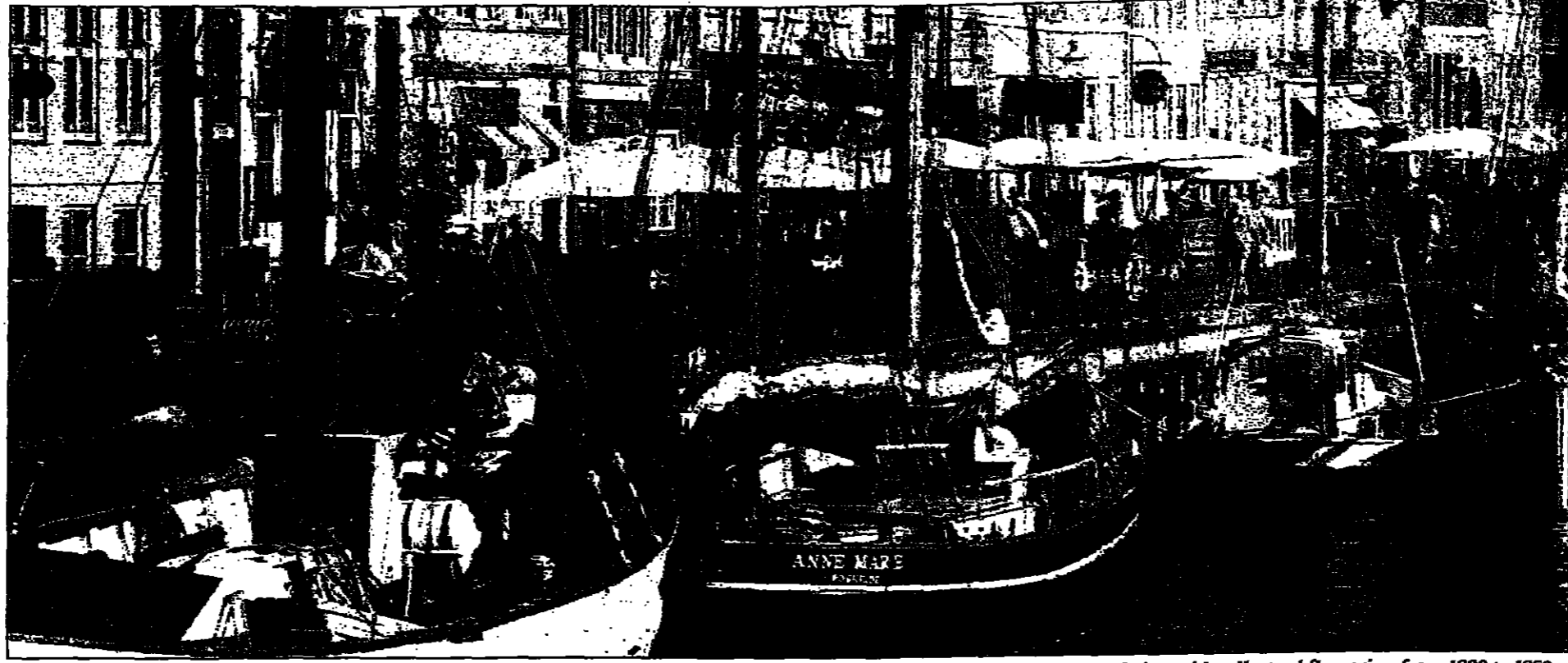


Unlicensed guides are liable to arrest and summary fines

## Greece targets foreign guides

GREEK police are continuing to arrest unofficial foreign guides in front of holidaymakers visiting archaeological sites. Police have cautioned and fined dozens of guides of different nationalities in Athens, Kos, Lesbos and Samos. Five guides in Athens became the latest victims this month. The arrests follow complaints from local guides that they are losing business to foreigners. But foreign guides say the law is unfair as the only way to get a licence is to complete a two-and-a-half year course at a Greek specialist school. A group of Thomson holidaymakers on the island of Samos saw Jenny Morris, their English tour guide, escorted away from their coach by police officers. She was driven to the local station where officers cautioned and fined her for taking the group to an area of archaeological interest without having a licence. Thomson said: "The group was obviously very surprised to see the guide taken away like that. It interrupted their day, although they weren't left stranded as there was a driver on the coach. All our guides in Greece have since been warned to keep away from restricted areas if they don't have licences." This month, guides leading a group of Cox & Kings Travel holidaymakers, also in Samos, narrowly avoided arrest only because they were able to persuade police they had not visited a museum or an archaeological site. One guide, Brian Anderson from Rochdale, said the crackdown has confused police officers. "The biggest problem is that they don't know whether it prevents guides using microphones on coaches to inform holidaymakers about local history," he said. "The whole situation is potentially very embarrassing. To be arrested in front of clients would be terrible." However, Panos Argyros, director of the Greek National Tourist Organisation in London, admitted there has been some confusion about the application of the law. He said: "Most cities are filled with archaeological sites, but many foreign guides don't think they need a licence to take groups there. If police come across somebody without a licence, they have no option other than to arrest them."

TOM CHESHYRE



The busy quaysides of Copenhagen, where the "Golden Days" Festival is being held in September to celebrate the city's artistic and intellectual flowering from 1800 to 1850

## Danish delights

COPENHAGEN is to host a "Golden Days" Festival from September 4-20 to celebrate the years 1800 to 1850, when the Danish capital was an artistic and intellectual melting-pot for writers, artists and musicians. Hans Christian Andersen wrote his fairy tales during this period. Soren Kierkegaard produced his existential philosophy, and the architect Frederik Hansen designed the neo-classical buildings that are still the hallmarks of modern Copenhagen. Special walks, tours, exhibitions, concerts, opera and ballet are planned for this autumn. You can combine a city break with a tour of Denmark's rolling countryside — it is one of the most pleasant places to drive in Europe. You can overnight in historic style — 40 or so Danish castles and manor houses offer B&B from £55 for two, or by Valdemars Castle at Svendborg, once the home of Denmark's naval hero Niels Juel. The castle is still in the same family, and B&B costs £450 a night for two. Festival, manor house and tour operator details from the Danish Tourist Board (0171-259 5959).

TRAVEL TIPS by Jill Crawshaw



### TRAVEL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

hard. "In case you have to use them as a springboard to jump out," I was told. According to a spokesman (who had to look up the regulations), this complies with the CAA's Airworthiness Notice No. 79 for this type of aircraft and exit. So if you do not want to pay for business class, make sure you sit further back.

Rothenburg ober der Tauber, home of the Christmas Shop. The cost is £590 for flights, half-board accommodation and excursions.

### Great little inns

FOUR new recruits have joined the Great Inns of England consortium launched last year. Criteria for entry, according to founder Paul Whitmore, of the Hosts Arms in Burnham Thorpe in Norfolk, have little to do with tourist board stars or crowns. The 14-day tours show three islands: the lush, verdant Sao Miguel with its volcanic craters, botanical gardens and hot mineral lakes and waterfall; Faial, the yachting favourite, once named by Sir Walter Raleigh; and Pico, a former whaling station which claims the 7,000ft Mount Pico and some of the best wines in Portugal. Prices start at £1,347 for flights, B&B and five lunches.

### PACK YOUR BAGS



Prices range from £65-£90 a night for a double room with English breakfast; evening meals are from £18-£25. The latest members are the Cornwallis Arms near Eye in Suffolk, a former dower house and rectory; The Bell Inn at Horndon on the Hill in Essex, which dates back to the 15th century; the General Tarleton Inn at Ferensby in North Yorkshire, named after the only successful British general in the American War of Independence; and the New Inn at Coln in Gloucestershire, voted one of the ten most desirable villages in England. Call Great Inns of England (01423 770152) for a free brochure and list of members.

### Azores tours

TRIPS to the Azores from Cricketer Holidays (01892 664242) are only in June and September, the best months. The 14-day tours show three islands: the lush, verdant Sao Miguel with its volcanic craters, botanical gardens and hot mineral lakes and waterfall; Faial, the yachting favourite, once named by Sir Walter Raleigh; and Pico, a former whaling station which claims the 7,000ft Mount Pico and some of the best wines in Portugal. Prices start at £1,347 for flights, B&B and five lunches.

THE French drink it by the gallon — they consume more of it in a month than they do cognac in a year. Robbie Burns — who called it the "cup of kindness" — was also a great imbibor. More than a million people visited 44 whisky distilleries from Orkney to East Lothian last year. The Scotch Whisky Association (0171-629 4384 and 0131-222 9200) has a free leaflet about how to join in. Travel articles in The Times since January are on our Internet site. See "Most Recent" links on http://www.the-times.co.uk

Peace, tranquility and organic food are on offer at Northcote Manor (01769 560 501), near Umberleigh, North Devon. This summer (May 1-September 30), the Jacobean manor is knocking 15 per cent off bookings which include a Sunday night (except one-night stays). There's also complimentary house wine on the last evening of stays of three nights or more. Two nights' half-board in a suite costs £72; a standard double room costs £67 per night.

Cape Town's International Gourmet Festival takes place from May 22-31 this year. A week-long trip with Carrier Aspects of Africa (01625 582 006) starts at £1,299 per person and includes return flights from Heathrow, taxes, car hire, five nights' B&B in Cape Town at the Cape Grace Hotel (one of the festival's host hotels) and two nights' B&B at the Grande Roche hotel in the Paarl Cape Winelands. Departs on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday or Sunday.

Channel Island hopping: Modern Hotels (01534 35511) is offering seven nights' B&B at the Mayfair Hotel in St Helier, Jersey. Accommodation, return catamaran crossing from Poole and transfers are £199 per person. Children between the ages of two and 11 (maximum of two) stay for 50 per cent less when sharing a room with two adults. Departs on May 31 and June 6.

Fancy a flutter? From Sunday May 29-31, the World of Racing Exhibition (01483 799141) at the York Racecourse in the York Centre, has displays on all aspects of horse-

manship, form guide by experts and a pageant starring retired racehorses. Entrance is £5, but free for children under 16. The York Tourist Board (01904 554455) has details of accommodation.

Destination Far East (0171-336 7788) is currently offering three nights' B&B at the Ming Court Vista, Kuala Lumpur plus seven nights' B&B at the Penang Novotel in Penang for £569 per person. The price includes return flights from Heathrow, transfers and taxes. Departs twice daily; the offer is valid until June 15.

From Moscow to Vladivostok on the Trans Siberian Express with Campus Travel costs from £740 per person. Price for the 9,290km journey includes ten nights in a four-berth compartment and a travel pack with tour dossier and itinerary. Alternative routes on offer are the Trans Mongolian Flyer between Moscow and Beijing via Ulan Bator, and the Trans Manchurian Flyer, between Moscow and Beijing via Irkutsk. Daily flights from Heathrow to Moscow start at £261 per person and to Beijing from £288 per person.

Impulsive travellers wanting to go to Los Angeles should contact Travelmold (0171-258 0280) which currently has United Airlines return flights for £272 (including tax). Offer ends May 31 and bookings can only be taken 48 hours ahead of departure.

Keycamp Holidays (0181-395 4000) is offering £100 off camping in Brittany and the Dordogne. Seven nights' accommodation in Brittany starts at £189 per family (two adults and up to four children), including return ferry crossings from Dover and departing on May 23.

JOANNA HUNTER

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Send your suggestion, in no more than 75 words, on a postcard to: Travellers' Tip, The Times Travel Desk, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, with your name and address and daytime telephone number. If yours is published, you will win the Lonely Planet guidebook and phrasebook of your choice.

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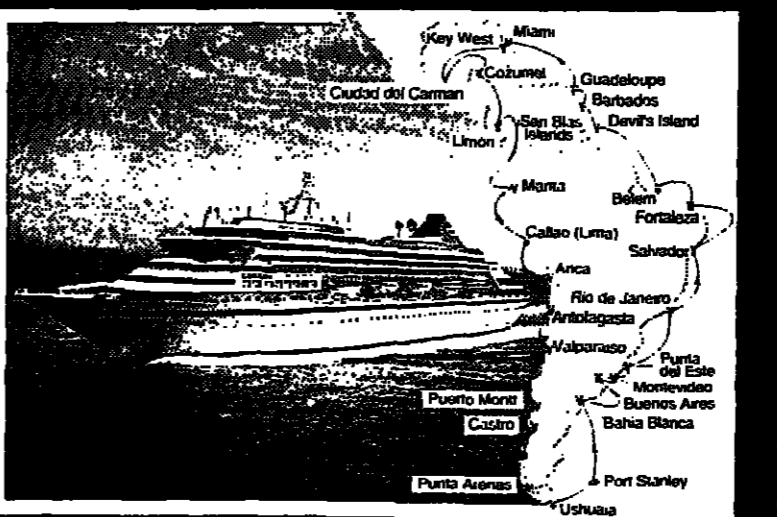
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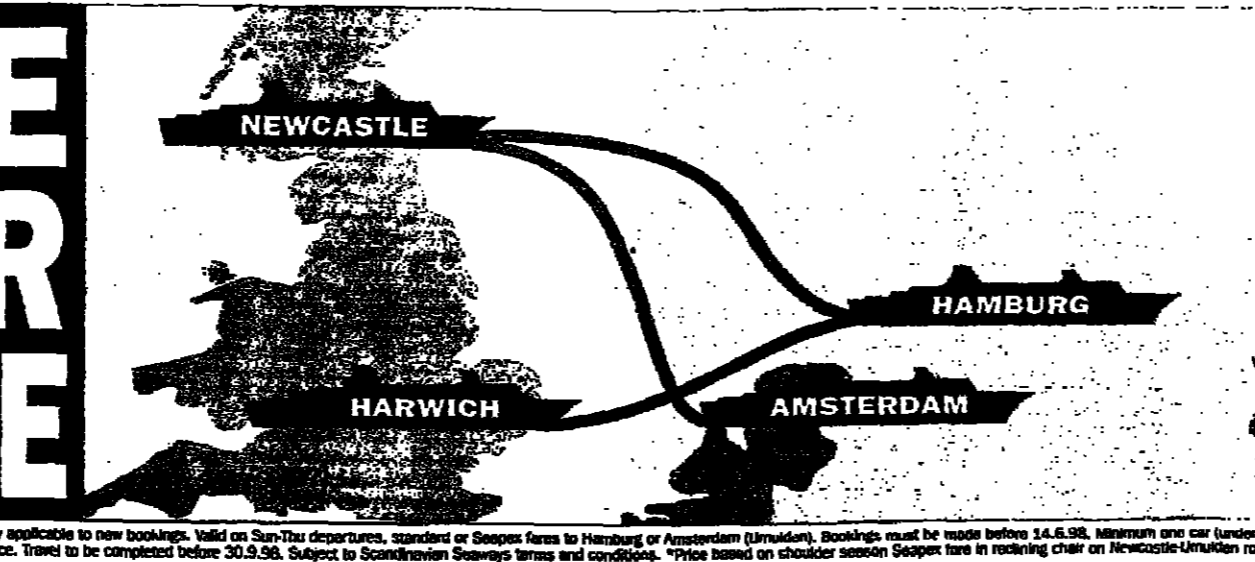
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TRAVELLERS' BULLETIN BOARD



Robin Swailes says the distress of missing a maiden voyage merits more compensation than P&O has offered

## Did you miss out on a dream cruise?

A man whose dream trip on the world's biggest cruise ship, *Grand Princess*, was cancelled is hoping to launch an action group with 400 fellow Britons to fight for improved compensation.

Robin Swailes, a pharmaceutical manager from Bristol, was bitterly disappointed when the maiden voyage was abandoned earlier this month. He believes that P&O's offer of 25 per cent off another cruise, £40 cash compensation and a refund is wholly unacceptable.

While P&O claims it is a good offer financially, Mr Swailes argues that the distress and disappointment at missing out on the inaugural sailing merits more reward.

The prestige of being among the first 2,600 passengers to sail on *Grand Princess* was what encouraged him and his wife, Paula, to book eight months ago. The brochure was persuasive: "To join the first sailing of any new vessel is an event, but to sail on the maiden voyage of the largest cruise ship ever constructed

Jeannette Hyde meets one of 400 Britons scuppered by P&O

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world. Part of the enjoyment of this special holiday was the planning and anticipation." The couple had arranged childcare for their three children, booked time off work, bought evening wear and arranged shore tours before the bad news.

Mr Swailes is now trying to contact other passengers who were also left distraught by the cancellation and he believes that £2,000 compensation would be far more appropriate.

P&O declined to confirm that it had made a verbal offer of 25 per cent of the cost of the cruise instead — which is £1,397 in the case of Mr Swailes.

Gwyn Hughes, P&O Cruises's managing director, claimed: "The vast majority of people who have booked have been very sympathetic and rebuffed other cruises in our group."

"The general response is better than we expected. There are very few passengers who are not satisfied."

Anybody wishing to contact Mr Swailes should write to: The Times travel desk, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

## Lost on the Barrier Reef

The broad, pleasant streets of Cairns do not look as if they hold much mystery, but this north Queensland town has been buzzing with rumours since January, when an American couple vanished during a day trip to the Great Barrier Reef.

Tom Lazenby, 28, and his wife Ellen, 28, had gone scuba diving out of Port Douglas, just north of Cairns, but it was two days before the dive company they used realised they had not returned and reported them missing.

Their families believe them dead, but everyone I have spoken to here this week thinks — indeed hopes — that they have deliberately disappeared, perhaps mingling with another boat's passengers, to start a new life. Understandably, local tourist businesses do not want a reputation for losing holiday makers. But unless the bodies are found, the rumours are likely to continue.

So when I took the reef trip this week I was pleased to find that my operator, Down Under Dive had scrupulous safety standards. Upon boarding we had a life-jacket-and-muster-stations talk, then a safety briefing at each of the two reefs we visited. Everyone was also given a "safety number" which was checked off before the boat left a reef.

Our best stop was Norman Reef, two hours from Cairns: here metre-long wrasse and smaller multi-coloured fish swam among us in clear water on the edge of the reef. It was quite magical.

harbourside development near the Opera House. Now I learn that Cairns City Council, acutely conscious that this tourist mecca has no beach, plans to build a public swimming pool in the mudflats that front the town's esplanade. Local opinion, as reflected in the *Cairns Post* newspaper, is against it. Letters warn of environmental damage and the loss of part of an important bird habitat.

Australians, who led the way in "eco-tourism", bringing visitors to the reef, the rainforest and outback with minimal impact on the environment, dislike a development that works against nature.

THE exchange rate makes Australia a bargain for us at present, with £1 buying A\$2.5. Hoteliers hope their dollar stays weak. They need Europeans as the Asian currency crisis means far fewer tourists from the Far East.

ON THE waterfront, part II: last week I reported how Sydney-siders are coming to terms with the ugly new

DRIVING north from Cairns to Cape Tribulation, I encountered this road sign: "Drive slowly — cassowaries cross road ahead". There are thought to be only a dozen of these large, flightless birds left in the wild here and a friend in Cairns was attacked by one — they are known to have a mean streak. But I was disappointed not to see one. I would sooner have my journey interrupted by an angry cassowary than by roadworks or the other irritants of city life.

I SHOULD be on the plane home as you read this, but there is threat of industrial action at Cairns airport. Up the workers — I wouldn't mind having to spend a few more days here.

## Passengers must sober up

TRAVELLERS who drink too much on planes are warned that they face hefty fines or imprisonment in a leaflet published this week by the Civil Aviation Authority. Tom Chesshyre writes.

Three million leaflets are being sent to tour operators and travel agents in a new crackdown on a growing trend of drunkenness on aircraft.

Passengers who have imbibed too much before their journey, it says, will not be allowed to board flights and can face fines of up to £5,000 or two years in prison.

"Drunken passengers can be more than just a nuisance to others," the leaflet says. "There have been cases of them causing serious safety hazards by interfering with the smooth running of the flight."

Only this month it was revealed that a British Airways 747 flying to Florida had to divert to Boston when a drunken passenger smashed a seat, assaulted a stewardess and threatened to kill the captain.

The *Travelling Safety* leaflets are being distributed with travel documents. Going Places is also distributing 700,000 copies through its 700 travel agencies. A spokeswoman said: "Anything that helps to improve safety and comfort on flights is definitely a good thing."

The CAA has produced safety leaflets for passengers before. But a spokesman said: "We've beefed up our warning about drinking and are increasing distribution of the leaflets. There have been too many incidents involving drink recently."

## Lunch on the bone in Calais

Ferry operator SeaFrance is recommending three Calais restaurants to its customers after noticing a surge in cross-Channel passengers visiting France to eat T-bone steaks, writes Tom Chesshyre.

Since Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, introduced his beef-on-the-bone ban last year, SeaFrance says it has had hundreds of inquiries from T-bone-loving passengers.

During the past couple of months, it claims there has been a 10 per cent increase in day-trippers on the Dover-Calais crossing.

The recommended restaurants are Les Saisons, Histoire Ancienne and La Sole Meunière — all in the centre of Calais. A manager at Histoire Ancienne, which charges £10 for a T-bone steak with a jacket potato and vegetables, said: "We've had a lot of people asking for T-bones."

"We don't agree with the British Government, we think people should be able to eat what they want."

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### Fares to Europe will fall

THE launch yesterday of British Airways's cut-price airline Go is likely to send prices tumbling on key European routes this summer.

Traditional full-service airlines, as well as low-cost carriers Debonair, easyJet, Ryanair and Virgin Express could end up in price wars against Go — much to the benefit of the consumer.

The BA subsidiary launched flights to Rome yesterday. Milan starts today and Copenhagen on June 5, with a flat fare of £100 return (including tax) if you book by next month. The company is also rumoured to be planning flights into Geneva, Lisbon, Madrid and Munich.

Debonair has already hit back with a £99 lead-in fare to Rome and easyJet is planning reduced fares for those who book on the Internet ([www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com)) — although the airline does not yet compete on the same routes as Go.

Low-frills airlines — known as "peanut airlines" in the US because they serve little else — are expected to make plane travel as accessible as bus travel in Europe.

They do not serve meals, usually charge for all drinks and snacks, encourage ticketless travel and most operate from Stansted and Luton, which are cheaper than Heathrow and Gatwick.

The advent of low-cost airlines in Europe has been spurred by deregulation which enables anybody to compete on any route. Before Ryanair started flying to Oslo and Stockholm last year, SAS and BA had a duopoly on the route, both charging a minimum return fare to London of around £200.

Both carriers have halved fares as a result of competition from Ryanair, whose fares to Scandinavia start at £99.

However, Ryanair does not fly to the city centres. For Oslo you have a one-and-a-half-hour drive to the city centre and for Stockholm centre an hour's bus ride.

Tim Jeans, Ryanair marketing director said: "Three or four years ago, Ryanair, as an Irish carrier, could not have flown from the UK to the rest of Europe. It is deregulation which has given us the ability to fly from the UK to other places."

New Ryanair routes from Stansted this month are Venice, St Etienne (French World Cup venue) and Kristianstad (near Malmö). Pisa, Rimini and Carcassonne are due to start on June 4. Prices start from £19 return.

Go will revise its fares in the first week of June.

JEANNETTE HYDE  
For more information, contact Go on 08456 054321

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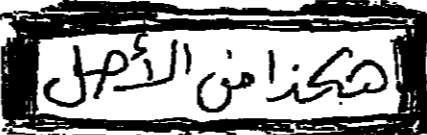
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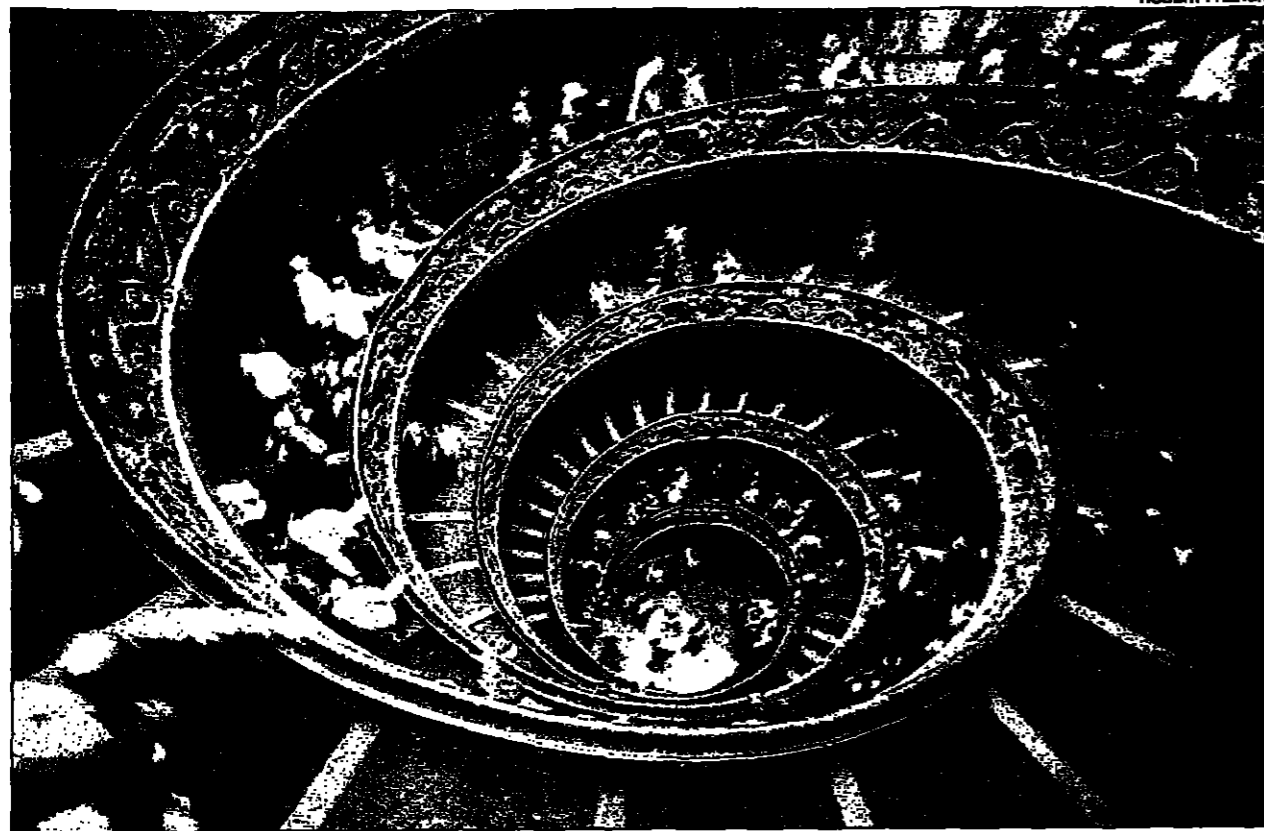
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# If anyone can, the Vatican



Down, down, down: visitors to the museum must enter and exit via this elegant staircase which was built in 1932.

The Vatican Museum, like Italy, can be a bit hit and miss. The guidebooks say the last visitor is allowed in 45 minutes before closure. The day I visited, it was an hour. Inside, a guide board, itself a museum piece, showed that four of the 19 sections were closed. If your interest was the Etruscan Museum, sorry. Even the bus service to St Peter's Square was unavailable. But the Sistine Chapel was open. Phew.

To reach the ticket booths, visitors must ascend a graceful spiral staircase, opened in 1932, that also serves as the exit. Wading through crowds of boisterous Italian schoolchildren patently ignoring the one-way rules, I reached another ancient information board, which lets it be known that there is a choice of four routes — lasting 90 minutes, three hours, three-and-a-half hours, or the block-busting, five-hour Full Pappal.

More decisions. An audio tape and headphones can be hired, even a CD-Rom. However, I decided to stick with my battered guidebook, my instinct and a well-honed ability to earwig escorted tours. I attach myself to one, led by a woman briskly brandishing a red hanky, tied to what appears to be a Ford Cortina aerial. The first stop is the Atrium of the Four Gates, the original entrance built in 1792. From here, all roads lead north. Or south. Or east. Time to regroup. Leaving my tour, it is a few paces to the wide open spaces of the internal Court of the Pigna (pine cone — named after the enormous bronze cone, which was once part of a Roman fountain).

It was a sunny day. Sitting on a bench overlooking the

This month in our series on great museums of the world, Steve Keenan visits the Vatican



snooker-table lawns, this was a fine spot to take stock and watch the tour guides crucifying history.

"Michelangelo refused to work for the Pope," explained one. "He complained that everybody was doing religious art. But the Pope said: 'You could go to Hell' — so Michelangelo did the whole ceiling."

This paid dividends in the Octagonal Court, in the Pio-Clementine Museum. Pope Julius II, who commissioned Raphael and Michelangelo to create the museum's most famous attractions, placed his ancient statues here in 1503.

The most striking is of the Laocöon, the priest of Apollo and his two sons locked in a fight with two serpents. The statue was described by Pliny the Elder, who died in the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD, and originally stood in the palace of the emperor Titus.

One of the most exciting things about the museums is not only the scale and richness of the history, but the pleasure of it being a living, evolving collection. The Etruscan Museum was opened only in 1837 and the three ex-Lateran museums in 1970.

Wandering through to the

Round Room, I passed a massive gilded bronze 2nd-century statue of Hercules, which was dug up only in 1864. Heaven knows what is yet to be found in Rome's rich hills and added to the museum's extraordinary wealth.

By the time I left the jumble of absorbing rooms that make up the Pio-Clementine, I was happily way behind schedule. But the closure of the Etruscan Museum absolved my non-Catholic guilt at missing what is a recommended collection of bronzes and vases, and allowed me more time in Bramante's Gallery.

But first, I sidetracked into the Pinacoteca and the ex-Lateran museums: the former a classical art exhibition, with works by Raphael, Bellini, Caravaggio and Rome's only Leonardo da Vinci. The latter houses the Vatican overflow and worldwide arts collected by the church.

At peak times, the one-way routes that operate in the museums are strictly enforced, and my sidetrack would have formed the finale of the tour.

However, I wanted to leave the Sistine Chapel to last, so after the ex-Lateran museums, I wandered down the quarter-mile Bramante's Gallery, which is actually en route to the Sistine. The first stretch hosts a collection of small sculptures. After the mammoth of the Pio-Clementine, the detail and eclecticism of these miniatures was absorbing. One portrayed a 2,000-year-old statuette of a boy strangling a goose, another was an 18th-century Nike — as in victory, not track shoes.

Time was running out. Gaggles of Japanese students were berated for running straight to the Sistine Chapel and completely ignoring the tapestry and maps galleries. While I agreed with them about the tapestries, I was rooted to the spot by the heartbreaking beauty of the maps.

Forty maps of 16th-century Italy line the walls beneath a painted, barrel-vaulted ceiling. A map of Corsica had been drawn upside down, today's Bonifacio was then Bonifacio: Ajaccio, Ajlazo.

Coming late does have its advantages. As the shadows grew longer, the museum guards solemnly closed the enormous wooden-shuttered windows, heightening the spiritual atmosphere.

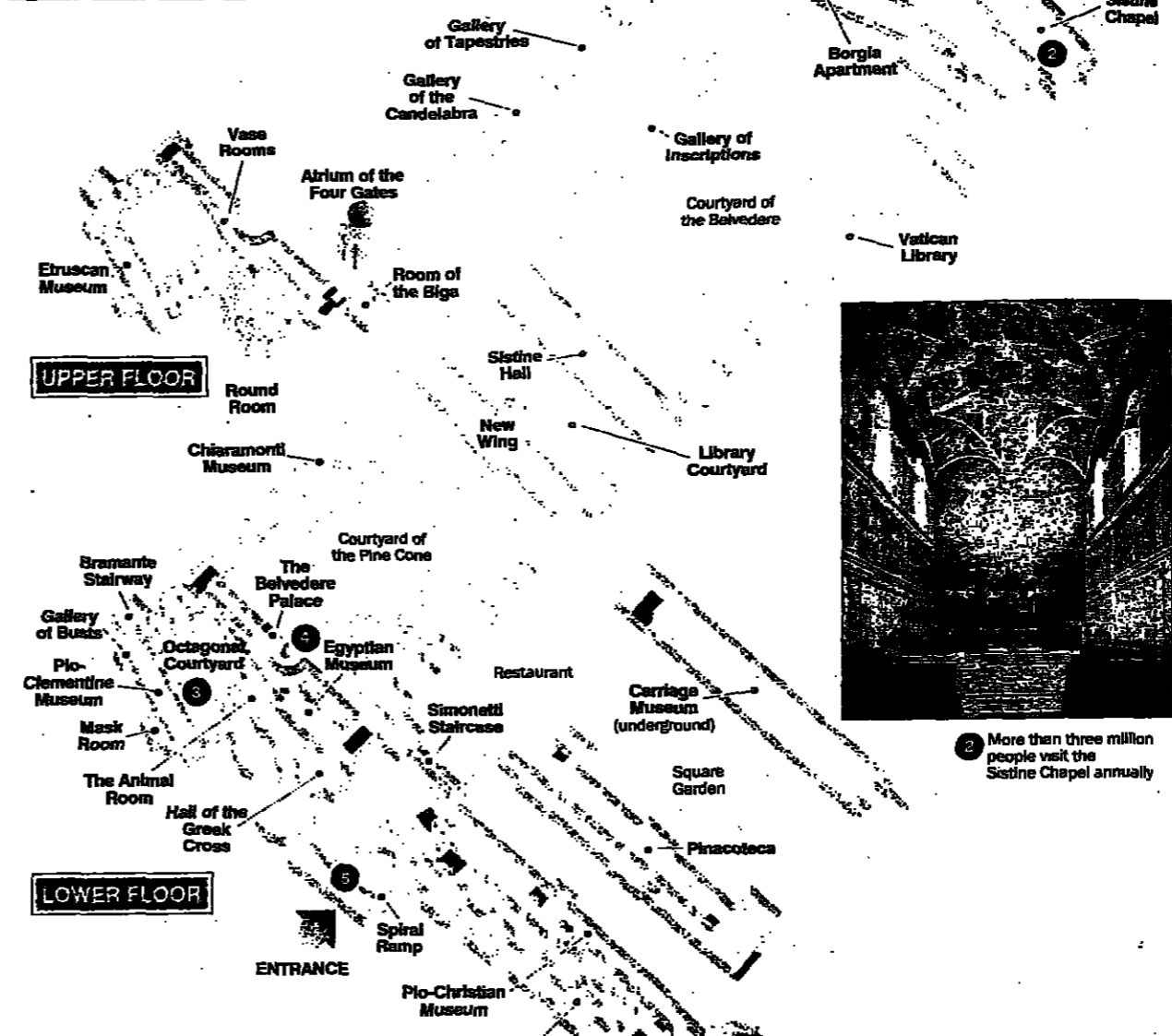
The downside of my tardiness, though, was the disservice I did to Raphael's work in the old papal rooms, work he started in 1509 and left unfinished at his death in 1520. I also missed the Borgia Apartments and the Collection of Modern Religious Art — but, if honest, I would have skipped these anyway.

And so to the Sistine. I had deliberately lingered, hoping that I would be the last one in that day. But I was disappointed. It was packed. More than three million people visit the Chapel every year, and a large proportion seemed to have chosen the last hours of today.

As if that wasn't enough to spoil things, half the eastern wall was swathed in scaffolding and screening. It is pretty hard to be overwhelmed by metal tubes.

Of course, I could admire the colossal scale of Michelangelo's work. I also took time to enjoy Botticelli's murals. But while benches offered the opportunity to sit and reflect, even the staff, mindful of the day's end, ruined the atmosphere — as they gossiped and larked about.

Leaving, past stalls selling Sistine Chapel videos or posters of the Last Supper, was a hollow finish to a glorious afternoon. Next time, the Sistine first.



1 The Laocöon sculpture, which stands in the Octagonal Courtyard in the Pio-Clementine Museum



2 The enormous bronze Pine Cone, once part of a Roman fountain



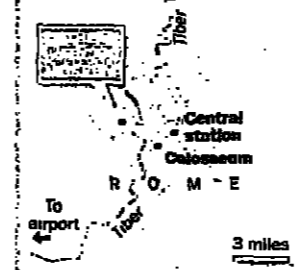
3 Tour guides are not averse to corrupting history for the sake of the story

## HOW TO SEE THE VATICAN MUSEUM

Steve Keenan travelled with KIRKER HOLIDAYS (0171-231 3333), which has three-night B&B breaks to Rome starting at £379, including scheduled flights, private transfer to the hotel, first-class rail tickets back to Fiumicino airport and free trolley-bus tour. He stayed at the four-star Dei Mellini hotel (00 39-6 32477), within walking distance of the Vatican Museums. The package price for staying at the Dei Mellini is £485 until November 18.

Essentials: enter the museums off Viale Vaticano (Vatican tourist office: 00 39 6-9988 4466). Nearest Metro station: Ottaviano. Until September, the museums are open weekdays from 8.45am-4.45pm (last entrance should be 45 minutes before closing). On Saturday, 8.45am-1.45pm. Closed on Sundays except for the last Sunday of the month, when admission is free — otherwise, £15,000 (£5.35). In winter, open 8.45am-1.45pm, Monday-Saturday and the last Sunday of the month. Check first. The museums serve disabled visitors particularly well. Four suggested routes, listed in English, are available, taking from one to three hours. The museums won an EU award in 1989 for disabled access.

In a hurry: pass through the Egyptian Museum and whizz by the sculptures in the Chiaramonti Gallery. Retrace your steps to the Octagonal Courtyard. Take in the Animal Room, the Gallery of Statues and the Hall of the Muses. Head upstairs to Bramante's Gallery en route to the papal apartments and the Sistine Chapel. Hidden gems: do not miss the Octagonal Courtyard. Also, beyond the Chiaramonti sculptures is the dead-end Braccio Nuovo, hosting several wonderful 4th and 5th-century sculptures. Few people head down this cul-de-sac. The Etruscan Museum, when open, is said to be unmissable. Forget it: the Egyptian Museum, which largely consists of Roman copies, or the usual mummies and sarcophagi. Modern Religious Art — go straight from the Raphael Rooms to the Sistine Chapel. Survival guide: arrive early and head straight for



the papal rooms and the Sistine Chapel — having the Chapel to yourself will really improve the visit. Return to the start for a coffee and a recuperative stroll around the Court of the Pigna, weather permitting. Then choose from the four different routes. The five-hour route really is necessary, but if you can't absorb it all in one go, take a shorter route and come back the next day. For less crowded viewing, a Monday in February is obviously a better time to go than a summer Sunday. Recovery zones: rain or shine, the Octagonal Court is really gorgeous. The covered cloisters contain extraordinary sculptures and the stone benches in the open yard give relief to the weary. There is only one café. Prices are fair, but the food is particularly uninspiring — hot dog and chips, £7,000; complete

meal, £22,000; coffee, £1,700. The Cadogan Guide to Rome comments: "The plastic pasta would make even the faithless consider fasting." Many sensible tourists brought packed lunches to eat in the Court of the Pigna or in the courtyard next to the entrance. Otherwise, there are several cafés close to the entrance. Guidebooks: the Cadogan Guide to Rome (£12.99) has a succinct section; Eyewitness Rome (Dorling Kindersley, £14.99) the best visual guide. Also Blue Guide Rome (£13.99). Once inside, buy the Guide to the Vatican Museums and City £15,000 for exhaustive detail. Audio or CD-Rom headphones can be hired for £5,000 each. Is it worth it? Absolutely. Particularly if visiting on the last Sunday of each month, when admission is free.

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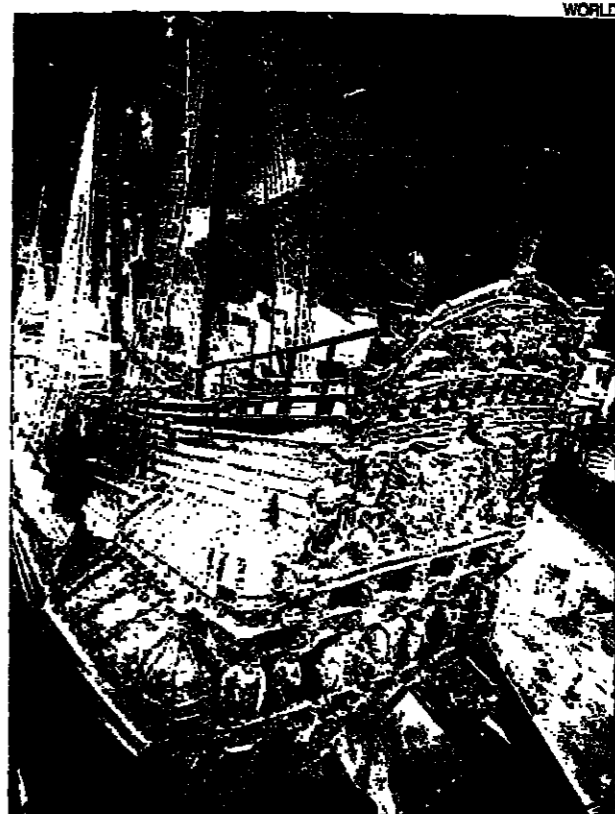
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Helsinki Cathedral at dusk. The triumph of the cruise was visiting eight ports in two weeks, which would have been prohibitively expensive by any other mode of transport



Passengers can take a ship-to-ship excursion in Stockholm and visit the Vasa, a 17th-century warship



Damian Whitworth takes time out in Helsinki

# 'Oooh Bert, you are awful'

## Damian Whitworth mingled with badly behaved pensioners - and an arsonist - on a Baltic cruise

I was a cruise virgin but I thought I knew what all the fuss was about. The point was the travelling rather than the arriving. The shore-stops themselves were of secondary importance.

But after two weeks of ploughing round the Baltic in the company of 600 others, including a suspected arsonist and an assortment of case studies from a thesis on anti-social behaviour, I was leaping ashore as soon as the gang plank was down and clambering back on board only as the ship was about to leave port.

The problem was not the Baltic. The Baltic was fabulous. In glorious, often blistering June sunshine it looked fantastic. Who could fail to feel content sitting on deck, drink in hand, as the sun set shortly before midnight and then Dostoevsky's "white nights" illuminated the silver sea in the few hours before dawn?

The problem was having to share such an idyll with other people. Or, at least, these people. I am not a misanthrope. I like other people. But being cooped up on a boat with this particular group was not always fun.

The sunsets were so wonderful because by then most of them had gone to bed. For, apart from a very few bored-looking children I was, at 28, younger than the vast majority of those on board by at least three decades. A jaunt around the Baltic does not attract the younger brigade.

But this was not the problem - the last thing I wanted was for the place to be throbbing all-night with discos and awash with hormones. The difficulty was - I know, call me old-fashioned - that many of the older generation on this particular cruise just did not know how to behave.

For a start, there was a

### Fires on cruise ship ignite an old-fashioned mystery



The arson story which appeared in The Times

distinct absence of good manners. Advertisements for P&O show an attractive couple posing beneath a caption that suggests the cruise ship has become their second home.

The trouble seemed to be that some passengers took this metaphor too far and behaved on board exactly as though they really were in the privacy of their own homes.

An unsavoury foretaste of what the fortnight was to hold came on the first day, while I was reading a notice. Beside me a septuagenarian shifted his weight uneasily from one foot to another before letting rip with a blast from nature's foghorn. "Oooh, Bert!" smirked his wife. Bert smirked like a schoolboy.

The place was alive with playground competitiveness. The majority of P&O's passengers are serial cruisers and the conversation on deck was dominated by one-upmanship of the "Really, have you never done the Panama?" and "Actu-

ally, this is our third trip this year" variety.

Mealtimes were the worst. The food was good. Mostly unadventurous British, but well done. But it was a serious business. The pleasure of eating on deck was spoiled by the urgency with which some passengers started queuing even before the food was ready, and then greedily descended on it, pushing and shoving, like a desperate starving horde.

The strain of sitting at the same dinner table with the same people every night for a fortnight was compounded by the breathtaking rudeness towards the Indian staff of some unsexed fellow passengers, who seemed to be reliving the last days of the Raj.

The waiters, full of fun and stories, were astonishingly patient and affected not to notice the whiff of colonialism that hung around some of those they were serving.

But retaliation was evi-

denced on one *Victoria* cruise in the Caribbean in 1996, however. A ship's officer was disciplined for exposing the pate of a wealthy racehorse owner by ruffling his "Bobby Charlton" hairstyle. P&O paid the victim £950 compensation earlier this month.

Midway through the trip someone else appeared to have had enough - whether staff member or passenger was unclear. We were woken on successive nights by fire alarms, the smell of smoke, and crew members pelting up and down the corridors in life-jackets.

Somebody had taken to starting fires near the bar manager's office so at Rostock, investigators from Southampton boarded the ship and spent the next five days combing it for clues to the identity of the culprit. We continued to sail and after the captain said that he suspected arson I filed a news story back to London.

On a cruise ship that harked back to a more ancient era, the whole affair had the feel of a mystery worthy of Hercule Poirot.

After the next day's stop in Copenhagen, where copies of *The Times* were picked up and passed around the ship, I started to get a lot of old-fashioned looks.

No trips ashore were a relief. Not everyone shared my view. Some never left the ship but just sat gazing over the rails at each port we visited. This seemed a shame as the triumph of the trip was visiting so many ports - Stockholm, Helsinki, St Petersburg, Neko, Rostock, Copenhagen.

Oslo, Zeebrugge - in two weeks, a feat which would be both taxing and prohibitively expensive by any other mode of transport.

Perhaps those who stayed on deck just could not face the coach excursions. These could be frustrating. Invariably, one passenger would fail to return to the coach, so his wife would go to find him. He would return. A friend would go for the wife who would meanwhile return.

This was a game that they seemed quite happy to play all day, when they were not infuriating the Russian guides by insisting, despite the

gentlest of protests, on hauling themselves round on four-hour tours of the Hermitage museum on two walking sticks or turning up in high heels for trips that specified sensible footwear.

Some of the coach trips, and there was a choice at every port, were well worth the effort. The excursion inland from Helsinki to explore the lakes and forests was a highlight, providing some bizarre glimpses into Finnish life-families washing their carpets at the lakeside; fat Finns emerging from their saunas and plunging into the chilly water; a town square packed

with a crowd cheering as lumberjacks raced each other to load and unload trailers of tree trunks.

But, otherwise, the best bet was just to explore the Baltic capitals alone and at your own pace. A day was easily spent poking about in Stockholm's old town and along the miles of intersecting waterways, and then visiting the mighty *Vasa*, the warship that sank in 1628 but was salvaged, remarkably well preserved, from the sea bed in 1961 and is installed in a superb museum.

Copenhagen is similarly pretty and the Tivoli gardens, though a touch under-

whelming, were fine after a plateful of fresh herring and a couple of frothing beers. Oslo's bustling, cosmopolitan waterfront, packed with busy restaurants and cafes, made for a jolly evening before a mid-night sailing.

When *Victoria* docks at Southampton at the end of every trip, it usually puts to sea again with a new group of passengers within hours. One passenger, a millionaire, simply stays on board. He spends most of the year on the ship and has become a brilliant bridge player. He must possess the most extraordinary tolerance of other people.

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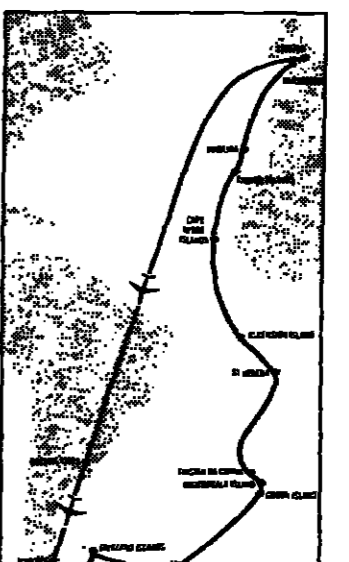
From Ascension sail to the Cape Verde archipelago, Tenerife, Madeira and finally our own Isles of Scilly before arriving at Falmouth. This unique 53 day odyssey of over 10,000 miles promises to be one of our most adventurous voyages in 1999 and should appeal to those who enjoy shipboard life and days at sea.

Heading in a northerly direction we will make for the shores of Tristan da Cunha, surely one of the world's loneliest islands. Not the case of islands to land on, we have allocated three days in the region in order that we will be able to disembark. On previous visits our passengers have been fascinated by this remote island which only sees a handful of people each year from visiting ships.

Permission is being sought to visit the mid-Atlantic islands of St Helena and Ascension. St Helena, like Tristan da Cunha has no airport and other than visits from the supply ship *RMS St Helena*, has little contact with the outside world. Colonised in the 17th century by the East India Company as an important staging post for their vessels, it is perhaps best known as Napoleon's final home.

Looking after the day to day programme aboard will be the expedition staff. There will be no formal entertainment, but the expedition staff will organise briefings and talks and the library will be equipped with a good selection of reading and board card games. For our forays ashore we will use the vessel's Zodiac craft allowing us great flexibility.

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- Days 30 & 31 Ascension Island.
- Days 32-37 Cape Verde Islands.
- Days 41-43 At sea.
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### BALTIC CRUISE FACT FILE

■ Damian Whitworth travelled with P&O Cruises (0171-800 2222). *Victoria* is the smallest ship in the P&O fleet and was refurbished last autumn, after the author's trip.

■ Summer cruising: *Victoria* leaves on a Baltic Capitals cruise for 14 nights on June 28. This is also a classical music tour with concerts and talks. Fares start at £1,875.

■ A 15-night Northern Capitals tour, including Helsinki, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Gdynia, Kiel, St Petersburg, Gdynia, Kiel Canal and Amsterdam departs on August 10. It has an antique theme with John Sandon and John Bly from Antiques Roadshow on board. Fares start at £2,095. Both



crises depart from and return to Southampton. Prices are per person, based on two sharing.

■ Extras: Port excursions are usually a half or full day and incur extra charges. They can be booked in advance or on board subject to availability. Talks on

each port are held on the eve of arrival.

■ A full-day tour of St Petersburg, for example, including the Hermitage and lunch, is from £60.

■ Half a day's sightseeing in Oslo is from £18.

■ Health treatments and drinks are charged to each passenger's account which is settled at the end of the cruise. All food is included.

■ Visas: Russian visas are required if going ashore in St Petersburg, unless in an organised group.

■ Reading: *A Short Residence in Sweden, Norway and Denmark* by Mary Wollstonecraft (Penguin, £7.99); *Miss Smith's Feeling For Snow* by Peter Hoeg (Harvill, £5.99); *A History of the Vikings* by Gwyn Jones (OUP, £9.99).

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# Designer coffins and coconuts

**Martin Symington wanders lonely on a beach and walks tall above rainforests in Ghana, while meeting a coffin-maker at work on a brogue**

Paa Joe the coffin maker put his hands on his hips and stepped back a pace, sizing me up. "What is your occupation?" he demanded. "Journalist." "What is your life's passion?" "Travelling." This was beginning to feel like *Mastermind*.

A globe would not be a good shape for a coffin. But I did once make a parrot holding a pen in its beak for a university professor.

I had merely enquired of Paa Joe how he might theme my final resting receptacle, should I be unfortunate enough to snuff it while in Ghana. We were in the Atlantic-side Teshi district, half an hour from downtown Accra, via a demented highway ruled by drivers of buses and ten-ton trucks with philosophies such as "Relax - God is in control!" stencilled on their windcreens.

In his workshop Paa Joe showed me a painted wooden coffin modelled on an aeroplane, made for a deceased pilot; a blue marlin for - you guessed it - a game fisherman; a brogue, a lorry, a bottle of beer, a cocoa pod and so on. It was all wonderfully entertaining, till we reached the hideous pink bulb with sprayed tendrils. "This is a worm, and these are Fallopian tubes," explained the artisan manner-of-factly. It had been commissioned, by an elderly matriarch, to glorify her famed fecundity.

Was the rest of my journey through Ghana going to prove as bizarre? I found myself agog at the prospect of exploring this little-known West African country of historic cities, equatorial rainforests, hundreds of kilometres of beach, but few tourists.

Ghana was the British-administered Gold Coast (as the country was known then) until, in 1957, it became the

first black African country to gain independence. Since then it has rollercoasted through dictatorship and democracy, economic disaster and relative prosperity. Now, as the homeland of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Ghana has suddenly found itself noticed on the international scene.

I began my tour in a minibus heading north from sprawling, polluted and traffic-choked Accra towards Kumasi, the ancient capital of the Ashanti kingdom. The well-surfaced road strikes out across a bright, lush landscape of banana and pineapple plantations, interspersed with patches of dark green cocoa-tree forest; it then snakes through hilly country between escarpments of red rock, scarred by bauxite quarries and gold mines.

We drove through villages of mud and palm-thatched houses, strikingly juxtaposed with the striped or Angel Delight-pink cement homes of the well-to-do. Schoolchildren in maroon uniforms marched in neat crocodies, women carried huge baskets or bundles on their heads with great poise, and men congregated around roadside businesses and shops embellished with slogans. Many of these were religious, ranging from the ubiquitous "Coca-Cola - God will provide" placards, to the theologically less fathomable "In Him is life electronic" which I noticed hanging outside a shop selling second-

hand televisions and fridges. As we drove on, James Nyamekh, our guide, pointed out roadside shrines, decorated with offerings to various deities and relics belonging to ancestors. James explained: "Most Ghanaians are either Christians or Muslims, but we also hold our African animistic beliefs - juju - the power of the fetish priests. Sometimes the churches and mosques don't like this but... that is the way we are."

A shining example of the blending of faiths and beliefs is embodied in the Asantehene, the Ashanti King, a Christian who exercises his royal prerogative to have many wives.

Our first stop in Kumasi was the Asantehene's colonial-style palace, built in 1925 for his predecessor. On display were incoherent collections of old gramophones, jewellery, models of the ornate carved-wood stools which are the Ashanti symbols of power, waxworks of the Ashanti Queen Mother and the golden sandals which a king must wear to prevent his feet ever touching the ground.

However, the highlight of Kumasi was not the Asantehene or his palace but the market, one of the largest in Africa. It covers 25 manic acres of the city centre, with a reputed 10,000 traders. The best - and unavoidable - thing to do is to get lost in the myriad thoroughfares assigned to particular trades: local Kenne cloth woven in mesmerizing patterns - sold by women in flowing robes and towering headaddresses, Ashanti stools and carvings, pungent spices, even more pungent dried fish, coffins (though none quite as exotic as Paa Joe's) and mountains of manioc.

We eventually retired from the m le for a traditional Ghanaian meal I had gaily manioc dumplings with stewed bush cat, served in a washing-up bowl. As a culinary experience, I felt that my lunch corresponded to nouvelle cuisine rather than Mike Tyson does to a sleeping baby. Leaden-stomached, we made for the coast. James told us: "At the moment almost all visitors to our country are black people from America, searching for their roots."

As we soon discovered at the smart, modern, but almost empty Coconut Beach resort near Elmina, Ghana undoubtedly has the wherewithal to become a sublime beach holiday destination. Pounding Atlantic rollers race in over miles of fine-sand beaches strewn with driftwood and coconuts. This was my sort of beach, and I walked for miles along the shore with my feet in the warm, white surf enjoying the elemental high drama of an ocean clashing with a continent. I met only a few brawny fishermen, hauling their sea-going canoes onto the sand.

At present, however, tourism to this coast is all about the fortress trading posts, from where hundreds of thousands of enslaved Africans were shipped to the Americas. Many of those who landed in Georgia and the Carolinas were loaded in Elmina or nearby Cape Coast, hence the special interest many African Americans take in Ghana.



Kumasi market is one of the largest in Africa, covering 25 manic acres of the ancient capital's city centre, with a reputed 10,000 traders



On the vertiginous rope walkway in Kakum National Park



Metaphysical messages are common on buses and trucks

At Elmina we saw the dank, airless dungeons, the manacles, the punishment rooms and instruments of torture which tell a story of degradation and injustice. The visitors' book is peppered with comments such as: "Goodbye to the Europeans, may they never come back."

We left Elmina pensive and preoccupied, and headed for Kakum National Park, a short deviation off the road back to Accra. Here, a spectacular walkway over the rainforest canopy has been constructed by Canadian lumberjacks. Nearly half a kilometre long, it comprises seven vertiginous rope-and-wire suspension bridges slung between tree trunks. As we walked it, hornbills flew past, clouds of butterflies bounced about and monkeys thumped in the trees, though I was disappointed not to spot any of the bush elephants which are rumoured to roam here.

Our jungle guide demonstrated how the forest is a natural fetish priest's pharmacy. As we walked through the dark, dripping undergrowth, Isaac showed us plants, barks and fungi that cure toothache, headache, infertility and fever, while others keep mosquitoes or evil spirits at bay. The souls of the recently-departed take refuge in the forest for a few months, before the big funeral parties which send them on to the land of the dead.

I was pleased to hear this, should the unthinkable happen, my loved ones would have plenty of time to think of an appropriately themed coffin for Paa Joe to build me. I, meanwhile, could check out the bush elephants I'd missed.



Paa Joe also has coffins shaped like an aeroplane, marlin, bottle of beer and a cocoa pod

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### GHANA FACT FILE

- Martin Symington travelled with Ghana Airways (0171-499 0201) which flies from Heathrow to Accra four times a week; fares start at £478 until the end of May.
- In Accra, he stayed at the four-star Golden Tulip hotel (0800 951000). Double rooms start at US\$225 (£138) B&B.
- Packages: Southern Africa Travel (01904 692469) is the only UK tour operator with a Ghana programme. For a tailor-made week-long tour inclusive of flights, transfers, a car with driver and guide, hotels in Accra, Kumasi and on the coast, and most meals, expect to pay in the region of £1,700 per person based on two people sharing.
- Best time to go: Ghana is hot and humid all year round. May, June and October are generally the wettest months. January and February are the driest.
- Red tape: Obtain required visas from the Ghana High Commission (0181-342 8686) (single £15, multiple entry £30). A valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is required. Anti-malarial drugs are also essential.
- Reading: *West Africa* (Rough Guide, £15.99) and *West Africa Travel Survival Kit* (Lonely Planet, £13.95) both have useful chapters on Ghana. *The Slave Trade*, by Hugh Thomas (Macmillan, £25) is a very readable, if weighty historical work. *A Good Man in Africa*, by William Boyd (Penguin, £6.99) is a humorous novel set in a fictitious West African country modelled on Ghana.

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A contestant holds up his winning toad. Toad racing is popular in Queensland, particularly in the hotels

# Toad racing and assorted trivia

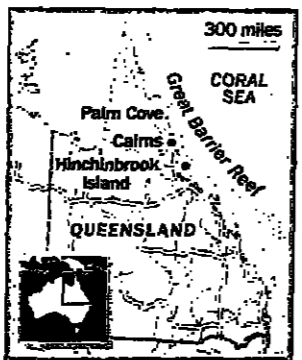
**R**ound the back of Palm Cove, behind the second row of palms, is Trivia Street. Trivia isn't hard to find here. The most popular pet dogs on the street are corgis. Alan's cat at No 1 used to be called Tannis, but Alan, who works at the Novotel, calls him Butthead. Most of the houses have answerphones which beep relentlessly through the sunny afternoons.

This is too trivial for you? Look, the sweat is running down my face and my shirt looks like I've showered in it and the cicadas are hissing in the heat. Give me a chance. This is Queensland, "The Sunshine State" as the car registration plates say. It's Australia on holiday, a few miles north of Cairns, in what the brochures call "your ultimate lifestyle destination".

Palm Cove is ultimate lifestyle leisure, a place of hotels and apartments, campsites and neat pavement cafes. If they're not on the beach, or scuba diving, or bungee jumping, or racing giant toads in the hotels, the ultimate lifestyle lists are unpacking lists for their BBQs and nursing "innies" (of beer). No hurries. No worries. The highest intellectual endeavour is collecting shells from the beach... which is where Trivia Street, with its trim houses and spruce gardens, comes in.

"I'll tell you the best bit of trivia of all," says Ilze, a Latvian woman at the corner house. "The council decided to name all these streets after types of shell — Amphora Street, Lambus Street, Trebera Street. This was supposed to be named Tribia Street, after the Tribia shell. But some clerk in a meeting wrote it as 'Trivia Street' and it went right through the council. The signs

**Stephen McLaren** discovers the ultimate leisure lifestyle on the shores of the Coral Sea



went up and nobody wanted to change it." Absolutely no worries at all, then, in laidback Palm Cove, with its blue sea and bluer sky and the Great Dividing Range looming over the Great Barrier Reef. Where the rainforests, as they say, meet the reef.

Well, one small worry actually. The coast is being eroded by over-development. According to local environmentalists, sewage from hotels and resorts is helping kill off the coral reef over a heavily developed 50-mile stretch. Tourism is destroying the very thing it's trying to promote.

"Every new resort creates further problems," says Oliver Schreiber, owner of an eco-tour company. "There's a new marina planned. It was blocked by the last government, but now it seems to be going through..."

He steers his coach into a crocodile farm. The owner is a burly man with a shrill voice. His arms swing at his sides like pendulums. He feeds off the crocs with a plastic garden rake. His prize exhibit is Gregory, a crocodile so bloa-

shows Edwardian women with parasols playing croquet while Aborigines look on. Cairns has updated its corporate tourism act since then. Our hotel, opposite the G'Day Tropical Village, has a prime parking space, "reserved for staff member of the month". It proudly displays an achievement award "for 10 per cent reduction in lost-time injuries". The restaurant is staffed by "waitpersons".

We dine at Red Ochre Grill, which specialises, brilliantly, in "creative native Australian cuisine". The menu seems, to British eyes, to be full of puzzling misprints: wattle seed damper with dukka, soba noodles with wasabi dressing, quandong crème brûlée, cheese and lavosh paste. There are emu profiteroles, crocodile spring rolls, kangaroo carpaccio with wild basil and parmesan. They pass in a cordon blur of slaughtered wildlife.

We busy ourselves with leisure. A catamaran takes us to the Great Barrier Reef: "the biggest living organism on planet Earth," bubbles Hughie, our marine biologist of the day. "It's the only natural feature on Earth visible from the Moon with the naked human eye."

Hughie, clearly from the surfboard school of marine biologists, gets the snorkellers under way and packs the rest of us into a glass-bottomed boat for a leisurely drift over the coral. "Cee, nice yellow-faced angel fish down there. Everyone get a look? Excellent! Everybody see those clams? There you go. All righty, that's about all, folks."

A hundred miles or so south, past fields of sugar cane and a Devonshire cream tea room, is the jetty for the speedboat to Hinchinbrook Island, the world's largest island national park (250 square miles). Fish leap by the boat. Swallows soar.

"Welcome to Splendid Isolation" says the sign by the island's resort, its only development. Even from 200 yards away, it's hidden by the densely wooded hillside. A dozen luxury treehouses are linked by raised wooden walkways, with a comfortable central club house. A big attraction are the gentle rainforest walks to spectacularly perfect beaches. They are usually deserted. Not a footprint in the sand. Turn right at the hut called Spangled

Drongo (after a bird) and just follow the signs. The surf roars, birds trill the odd arpeggio, and only the occasional thud of a falling coconut suggests the passage of time.

Back at Palm Cove, Oliver Schreiber's eco-tour explores denser rainforest — 50 million years of growth in 12 inches of soil. Giant strangler figs tower over the gloom. The mummified bodies of Aborigines used to be buried in their tangled branches. It starts to rain and Oliver unpacks black umbrellas. We stroll through the jungle like stockbrokers on the way to the office.

Lunch is at an organic fruit farm run by a retired homicide detective. He packages his fruit and flies it 1,400 miles to Melbourne, where it's unpacked, repackaged and flown back to be sold in Cairns.

We settle back with coffee. The corgis may be barking in Trivia Street, the answerphones may be beeping, but we have discovered ultimate lifestyle leisure.



Feeding time at a crocodile farm. Crocodiles also feed people in the more expensive restaurants in Australia

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**QUEENSLAND FACT FILE**

Getting there: Stephen McLaren travelled with Qantas and the Australian Tourist Commission (ATC). Qantas (0345 747767) has return flights from Heathrow to Cairns from £699 until the end of June. £799 including one internal flight.

■ Packages: British Airways Holidays (01293 723191) railor offers a 14-night stay at the Acacia Court Hotel in Cairns including return flights starting at £1,089 in June. Travel 2 (0541 550 066) is offering a nine-day Grand East self-drive package between Cairns and Brisbane from £988 per person including flights, accommodation, a car and a day's Great Barrier Reef cruise in June.

■ Where to stay: Ringa Colonial Club, Cairns (00 6170 535111), has double rooms from £52 a night (meals extra). Ramada Great Barrier Reef Resort, Palm Cove (553999), has double rooms from £81 (meals extra). Hinchinbrook Island Resort (668585) charges from £95 per person per day, all meals included.

■ Activities: Barrier Reef & Rainforest Explorers (310800) eco-tours start at £45.

■ Best time to go: May to November — not too hot and not much humidity.

■ Tips: Wear sunblock, a sun hat and a T-shirt when the sun is fiercest. Qualified divers must take copies of their certificates if they wish to dive. Those wishing to learn to dive should take a doctor's certificate showing a clean bill of health.

■ Books: *The Lonely Planet Guide to Queensland* by Mark Armstrong (£11.99). *The Rough Guide to Australia* (£12.99; third edition due out in October: £13.99).

■ Further information ATC (0990 022000); for an information pack call 0990 561434.

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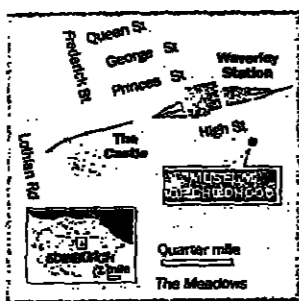
# Anyone got a 1920s Meccano jumper?

Alan Jenkins visits the Museum of Childhood and finds out that this is the sweater to have

It may seem a curious kind of ambition, but John Heyes is longing to get hold of a particular kind of jersey. It was made by Jaeger and advertised in Meccano magazines throughout the 1920s and 1930s, apparently not losing its appeal until about 1950. It is distinguished by a Meccano pattern running along the hem and for John Heyes it would fill an irritating gap in his collection.

As Keeper of the Museum of Childhood in Edinburgh, the first of its kind in the world, he is always searching for things connected with growing up through the ages. Looking around his offices above the museum's five floors, it is difficult to imagine fitting in even one more item. But new offerings keep coming — a bag of marbles, a brace of dumbbells, a pre-war Hopper bike. "Can anyone tell me about Hopper?" asks Heyes and enough christening gowns to clothe a generation. More items are likely to arrive during this year's UK Museum Week, which starts today. The Museum of Childhood activities will include a toy conservation workshop on Monday, to which anyone is welcome to attend.

A quarter of a million visitors a year enter this intriguing building on the Royal Mile. One famous visitor was the Princess Royal. "When she walked in," says Heyes, "she asked me: 'When does childhood finish?' I really didn't have a flip answer to that. All I can say is that for the privileged children of today it can go on a good deal longer than in earlier times." Although the museum has a superb collection of toys, it is more than a toy museum — setting out to reflect every aspect of growing up. Its founder, Pat Murray, an optician and local councillor, started his collection in 1955 when he read that two of Queen Victoria's dolls were being sent to London because there was nowhere to display them in Scotland. He persuaded his colleagues on the council to give him some space at



A page from the Meccano magazine, showing the much-coveted Meccano jumper, designed in the 1920s

Lady Stair's House Museum. He described his first exhibits as: "a pitiful handful of soldiers, building blocks and railway stuff of my own". But these toys struck a nostalgic chord with the Edinburgh public and a flood of nursery offerings began. Within two years the collection was given its own building, a converted 18th-century tenement (visitors can still climb the stone stairway Sir Walter Scott used when he visited with his aunt as a boy).

Murray gave the institution an international reputation and clearly stated its aims: "This is not a children's museum: it is a museum about them." He insisted that he actually could not stand children and caused some controversy by displaying a design for a proposed memorial window dedicated to "Good" King Herod at the museum entrance. The caption read: *Research suggests that the number of innocents massacred could not have been more than 12 or 15. To a museum curator, when distracted by noisy or aggravating children, this seems a very disappointing total.*

That design is still displayed in the now enlarged museum, which incorporates a Georgian theatre with an elegantly restored ceiling.

Despite Murray's dislike of children, every generation is

represented among the visitors today. There are many school parties, but John Heyes insists that most of the visitors are family groups. Watching elderly people of both sexes mix with a school party, it is difficult to tell who is responsible for the loudest and most expressive oohs and ahhs.

"We have never discouraged visitors from expressing themselves," says Heyes. "Some people complain that we do not have the sort of hands-on exhibits that appeal to children, but that is not what we are about — although I'm happy to provide step ladders for toddlers to peer into the tops of the biggest dolls' houses. Our aim is to show both young and old what growing up was like for their parents and grandparents."

That involves many aspects of their lives: babyhood, school, health, food, clothing, work, as well as games and entertainment. Music and film are used in the five galleries to expand the vision of past decades. Next to a Punch and Judy show, early Pathéscope 9.5mm silent cartoons are played continuously with added soundtrack, reminding grandparents of Betty Boop and the first of the Mickey Mouse and Popeye films. A film called *The Singing Street*, made by three teachers in Edinburgh in 1951, recalls the wealth of skipping and pavement games played by girls, sometimes with boys joining in the songs. Curiously, and quite by chance, an interested passer-by in one of the scenes is Pat Murray.

An earlier notion of youth is captured in two figures by George Halse from 1880 with delightfully non-PC captions: "Young England", a boy cricketer leaning on a cricket bat, a book open in one hand, and his pure and virtuous partner, "Young England's sister".

One large display shows what a classroom might have looked like a century ago. It is

ironic that the accompanying children's voices parroting their times tables, something for 1990s' children to giggle about, might not sound so strange in the years ahead, when reading and rhythmic make their comeback. Heyes, once a teacher, can't pass that display without a glance at the tawse, that bygone Scottish instrument of torture used to establish discipline. "Thank heaven we didn't have that in England," he muses. "But I did once get the cane for putting naughty words to the Lord's Prayer in assembly. The headmaster was rather amused by the fact that I was a Methodist minister's son. It was fortunate that my father also had a sense of humour."

Heyes has been at the museum for 16 years now, after an apprenticeship at the Victoria and Albert in London and a spell in Yorkshire. He admits to being an obsessive collector as a boy. He is particularly pleased with the museum's collection of teddy bears — always the star attraction when groups of Japanese call in. His favourite is Teddy Lane, named after the owner's family, dating from 1908 and made by the celebrated Margarete Steiff of Würtemberg. Another favoured bear is Bertie, more than 70 years old, donated by a retired soldier who carried his talisman while serving in Cyprus and Northern Ireland.

Heyes still has ambitions for his doll collection, although its present strength includes such curiosities as a 1900 soldier girl from the Boer War and a crew of Jollyboy dolls of the 1930s by Norah Wellings which sold in their thousands on the *Queen Mary* in mid-Atlantic. "I am just about to inspect an early Sindy doll collection — that's very exciting. What we would like to have is a 17th-century doll, which is likely to be all wood.



John Heyes, Keeper of the Museum of Childhood, holding a 1930s French model of an Alfa Romeo car



A model of two schoolboys in the 1940s stands at the entrance, holding a sign to remind all the visitors exactly what the museum is about



Children visiting the museum play with pieces from the collection. Older visitors are welcome, too



Cuddle up: the teddy bear collection is very popular, especially with Japanese visitors

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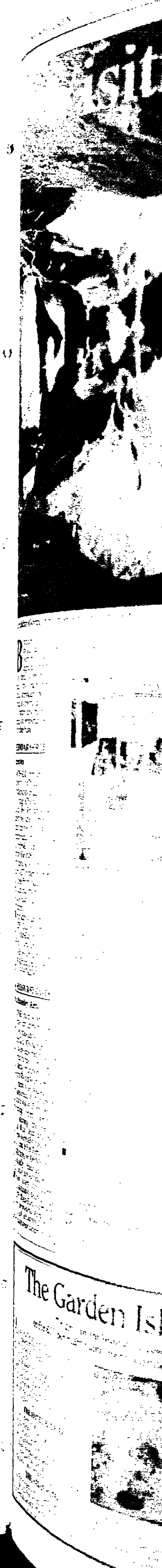
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Cheddar Gorge, three miles long, contains numerous caves, limestone cliffs which rise to 140 metres above the road and an underground river. Cheddar Yeo, which bubbles up through 18 springs. In 1996, 256,000 people visited the Gorge

Britain is perforated by holes: caves hollowed out millions of years ago, by underground rivers that wore away at a crack by rainwater that seeped through the soil and carved everything in its path, or by man and his pickaxe in search of minerals. Here are ten of the best.

**CHEDDAR GORGE**  
Somerset

REACHED through the market town of Cheddar or across the Mendip Hills, the three-mile long Cheddar Gorge is said to be Britain's biggest. Limestone cliffs rise to 140 metres above the road and an underground river, Cheddar Yeo, bubbles up through 18 springs. George Cox's original show cave, Cox Cave, discovered in 1837 when he removed limestone from near his water mill, and the river's source at Gough's Cave are the main attractions.

Open daily except Dec 24 and 25: Easter-Sept, 10am-5pm. Oct-Easter 10.30am-4.30pm. Inclusive ticket: adults £6.90, children (aged 5-15) £4. Adventure caving trips £7.50 (01934 742343).

**CHISLEHURST CAVES**  
near Bromley, Kent

IN THE past 4,000 years, man has carved more than 20 miles of passageways out of the chalk at Chislehurst. The caves were explored by geologists before they were used to store army munitions during the First World War. A mushroom farm was housed here until the creation of an underground town of 15,000 people sheltering from bombing raids during the Second World War. Jazz and pop concerts were also held in the caves, and John Pertwee met the Mutants in *Dr Who* here. Supposedly haunted, overnight stays are forbidden.

Open every day during school holidays except Dec 24 and 25: Wed-Sun, 10am-4pm during term-time. Admission: adults £3, children £1.50. A 45-minute tour departs hourly.

**Caves, whether created by nature or by man with his pickaxe, are fascinating and often mysterious. Lee Karen Stow chooses ten of her favourites**



Information for visitors to Wookey Hole in Somerset

Wed to Sat, or a 90-minute tour departs 2.30pm Sun; adults £5, children £2.50 (0181-467 3264).

**CLEARWELL CAVES**  
Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire

MORE than 30 kilometres of natural caves and covered passageways, Clearwell caves are partially filled with iron ore which has been mined for more than 2,500 years. Still registered as a working mine, Clearwell is one of the few in the world that produce violet ochre, used as paint, traditionally worked by the "free miners" whose right to dig for minerals in the forest was awarded by a 13th-century Royal Charter. Clearwell is rumoured to be haunted by the ghost of a 14th-century miner trapped when the roof collapsed - his body was never recovered.

Open daily, March 1-Oct 31, 10am-5pm. Admission: adults £5, children (under 16) £2 (01594 832535).

**DAN-YR-OGOF**  
Upper Swansea Valley, Wales

A NATURAL limestone cave within the Brecon Beacons National Park, Dan-yr-ogof, with its famous row of stalagmites known as the "Nuns", was first explored in 1912 by the Morgan brothers, a local family. Cathedral Cave - the largest single chamber in any British show cave - is the star; the limestone hangs like tattered curtains and stalactites dangle like bell ropes. The Bone Cave was named after more than 42 human skeletons discovered here, some dating back to the Bronze Age.

Open daily April 1-Oct 31, 10am-3pm. Admission: adults £6.50, children (aged 5-16) £4 (01634 730284).

**ST CLEMENTS CAVES**  
Hastings, East Sussex

DEEP within the West Hill of Hastings are the dark, winding burrows of St Clements Caves, a smuggler's haunt when 40,000 men traded illicitly along the English coast. A combined ticket allows visitors to wander the crumbled turrets of Hastings Castle - Britain's first Norman castle - and take in the "1066 Story", an audio-visual show about the Battle of Hastings.

Open March 28-Sept 27, 10am-5.30pm ("1066 Story" closes 5pm); Oct-March 11am-4.30pm ("1066 Story" closes 3.30pm). Combined ticket to smugglers' cave and castle: adults £6.25, children (aged 5-15) £3.80, family ticket £18.95 (01424 423964).

**TREAK CLIFF CAVERN**  
Castletown, Derbyshire

ONE OF four show caves in the Peak District National Park, Treak Cliff is the only known place in the world where blue john, a rare variety of fluor spar, occurs naturally. Discovered in 1748, blue john became fashionable when King George III commissioned a clock and Queen Charlotte ordered candelabra and scent holders. It is still mined today. Treak Cliff is also known for its Dream Cave where the Stork Stalactite points just 4cm - or 1,000 years - away from a stalagmite.

Open daily except Dec 25 (weather permitting), March 1-Oct 31, 9.30am-5.30pm; Nov 1-Feb 28, 10am-4pm. Tours every 12-15 minutes. Admission: adults £4.95, children (aged 5-15) £2.25, family ticket £13 (01433 620571).

**WHITE SCAR**  
Ingletton, North Yorkshire

CLAIMING to be Britain's longest show cave, this is a 200,000-year-old Ice Age sculpted cavity which meanders through a mile of passages, waterfalls and streams to the 330ft Banfield Cavern. In places its ceiling soars to 100ft. Famed for strange formations which include the Devil's Tongue and the Judge's Head (complete with wig), the cave's special feature is undisturbed mud pools.

**WEMYSS CAVES**  
East Wemyss, Fife

DECORATED with Pict markings (pre-Celtic people of northern Britain), there are at least eight Wemyss Caves along the shoreline, extending to just beyond Macduff Castle. Jonathan's Cave has drawings of a swan, a dagger and what could be the oldest known sketch in Scotland of a ship. The Doo Cave has 17th-century pigeon boxes carved into the walls. Coastal erosion is a constant threat and some caves are hazardous.

For further information, phone 01592 266361.

**WOOCKEY HOLE**  
Wells, Somerset

CARVED out by the River Axe, the caves of Wookey are pockets in the Mendip Hills. Deep within stands the frozen figure of the Witch of Wookey, who was supposed to have lived here with her dog in the 16th century. According to local legend, she was turned to stone by a monk from Glastonbury Abbey who sprinkled her with holy water while she was cooking a child. A tunnel has now been blasted to allow the public access to areas previously seen only by divers.

Open daily except Dec 17-25, summer 10am-5pm, winter 10.30am-4.30pm. Admission: adults £6.70, children (aged 4-16) £3.60 (01749 672243).

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Vertical sidebar containing various small advertisements and notices, including travel deals and services.

5

13

FRANCE

LOT Rural luxury, 4ha 4.94. Priv. pool, 17 x 12, 12 sunbathers, 12 chairs, 12 deck chairs, 12 deck chairs, 12 deck chairs...

ITALY

EMERGENCY ESCAPE ROUTE. Tuscany & Umbria, Tuscany Umbria, Tuscany Umbria...

ITALY

EMERGENCY ESCAPE ROUTE. Tuscany & Umbria, Tuscany Umbria, Tuscany Umbria...

ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS

ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS. Activity HOLIDAYS, Activity HOLIDAYS, Activity HOLIDAYS...

CORNWALL & DEVON

CORNWALL & DEVON. Cornwall & Devon, Cornwall & Devon, Cornwall & Devon...

LAKE DISTRICT

LAKE DISTRICT. Lake District, Lake District, Lake District...

GENERAL OVERSEAS

GENERAL OVERSEAS. General Overseas, General Overseas, General Overseas...

LONDON

LONDON. London, London, London...

NORTHUMBRIA

NORTHUMBRIA. Northumbria, Northumbria, Northumbria...

PEAK DISTRICT

PEAK DISTRICT. Peak District, Peak District, Peak District...

FRANCE

FRANCE. France, France, France...

ITALY

ITALY. Italy, Italy, Italy...

ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS

ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS. Activity HOLIDAYS, Activity HOLIDAYS, Activity HOLIDAYS...

CORNWALL & DEVON

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GENERAL OVERSEAS

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LONDON

LONDON. London, London, London...

NORTHUMBRIA

NORTHUMBRIA. Northumbria, Northumbria, Northumbria...

PEAK DISTRICT

PEAK DISTRICT. Peak District, Peak District, Peak District...

COTSWOLDS

COTSWOLDS. Cotswolds, Cotswolds, Cotswolds...

GERMANY

GERMANY. Germany, Germany, Germany...

GREECE

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PORTUGAL

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TURKEY

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USA & CANADA

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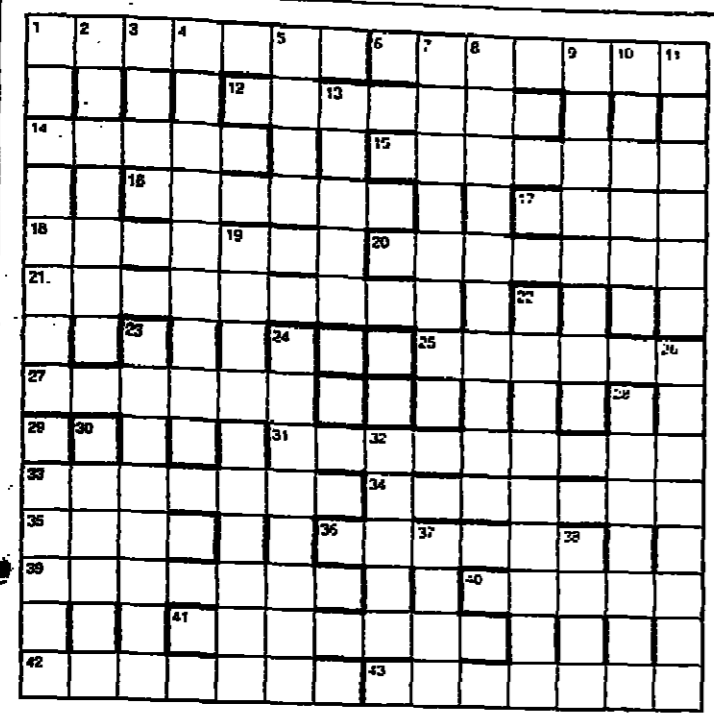
ITALY. Italy, Italy, Italy...

ITALY. Italy, Italy, Italy...



THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3462: Up for the Cup by Aldhelm



ALL THE clues contain a misprint in the definition part. The correct forms of these letters, in clue order, will spell out a quotation (in Stevenson's Book of Quotations) and its author; 29 of the clues consist of a definition of the full answer, which is to be entered in the diagram, and an indication of the answer minus one or two letters somewhere along its length (the rest of the clues and answers are normal).

- ACROSS
1 Small tip; something in addition's nought plus one thousand (7)
6 American laid out in Australia (7)
12 Things might be trying on this tricky errand (7)
14 Yell in America for spirit level no longer (5)
15 Asian songster's rupee contracted those just wishing to pass (7)
16 Impala's coping with drug (6)
17 Only partly align a target, causing nuisance in the aim (4)
18 Carrying on one's war with two supporters twirling blade without confusion in retreat (7)
20 Tarty fur suit with neat lining (7)
21 Not being a seated church-goer, lad next to icon relocates circular perch (9)
25 One of those exulting converts due in the midst of god (6)
27 One exacting play taking succeeding characters from my musical comedy seems rather theatrical (10)
31 Activity that gives rise to spree, maybe: drunken spree embroiling backward class (9)
33 About to be wearing gold alb from the past (7)
34 Spades and garden trimmer for one on a job, perhaps (7)
35 Have passy, lawyer in conversation (4)
36 Section head's in debt effectively with getting firm into groups (6)
39 A beam across church's carved entrance (7)
40 SW African can invest this with Zaireans after regular deductions (5)
41 Period of time for gardening (7)
42 Take walk round church's penitential park (7)
43 Little toil involved in perusal, perhaps (7)
DOWN
1 Staff helping to build plant's exterior erected boundary round one bale (8)
2 Deposited like loads of scones left below value I worked out (7)
3 In some places, coarse material's abstracted by this tense written work (4)
4 A danger to milers passed in crush (9)
5 Those using cars in race were almost overturned (4)
7 Feel funny when heads go dizzy in a lumpy way (5)
8 Rush for payment takes energy before spring payoff situation (10)
9 A couple of hours after tan's not upsetting diet (8)
10 Tape bits of rock from rising heavy-metal band (6)
11 Dealt out processed cork for brewing (6)
13 Administrator in mundane locality (5)
19 But somehow I seem bold (10)
22 Women's dress got up without clavy old garment forming protective part of a slip (9)
23 Making one dead call me up over darning's heart (8)
24 Line from magazine: "rent, not neglected, for sale" (8)
26 Bye taken for another run, then English pair's out (8)
28 Water slowly raining judge's attendant (7)
29 Coil twisting bus in knots (6)
30 Unwanted-by-product of allowing process, for example, to render up gaseous mixture of irritant gas (6)
32 One who's nerved the USA in passing (5)
37 Picking last bits, this noisy hen's to make clucks all the same (4)
38 Share transactions with first of profits (4)

LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3462 in association with Waterstone's
NAME
ADDRESS

Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3462, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, May 28.

Waterstone's logo and promotional text: 'The winner will receive a Waterstone's book token worth £75. Five runners-up will each receive a book token worth £10.'

Solution and notes for no. 3459 Carte Blanche: No Tank's Strike (4.7) by Ken. Includes a crossword grid and detailed explanations for various words like 'Gallipoli', 'Flechette', and 'Carte Blanche'.

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

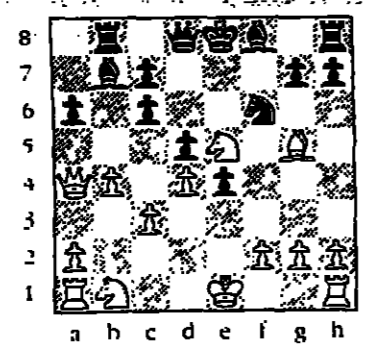
THE real showman on the international bridge scene, who rivals Omar Sharif in fame, is Pakistan's Zia Mahmood, now resident in New York. With Pakistan he won two silver medals in world championships, and last year he played on the American team that lost in the semi-final of the Bermuda Bowl. Mahmood is better known for his flamboyance than for steady, error-free bridge. He is famous for making penalty doubles seemingly out of the blue though in the recent Macaulan Tournament he received a dose of his own medicine when he played One No-Trump doubled and did not make a single trick for a 2,000 penalty. On the following deal he started off with a little luck but everyone took him seriously. Dealer South. Law 43 Teams.

WORD ANSWERS section with answers to various puzzles and a 'TWO BRAINS' section with two brain teasers.

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

THE weekly prize for solving the chess puzzle, Winning Move, in this column is membership of the Staunton Society. This was set up to raise funding for a memorial to Howard Staunton in Kensal Green cemetery, North London. The society has now started assisting young British players and each year organises a commemorative dinner in Staunton's honour. To reserve your place or to apply for membership, contact the secretary, Barry Martin, at 98 Cole Park Road, Twickenham, TW1 1JA (0181-744 2868). This week's game shows Staunton demolishing one of his leading European rivals, a player who went on to draw a match with Adolf Anderssen and score two wins against Morphy.



White: Howard Staunton; Black: Daniel Harrwitz. London 1846. Ponziani Opening. 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 c3. The defining move of the Ponziani Opening... After 7... dxc6 8 Bg5 White enjoys an obvious initiative. A radical solution to pin down Black's weak doubled pawns but 9... Qe2 is also promising. Once again Harrwitz encourages

COMPUTER GAMES AND SOFTWARE

by Tim Wapshott

Advertisement for Gran Turismo, a car racing game. Includes images of cars and text: 'The comedienne Joan Rivers boasted that when the time came for her to give birth she had a Jewish delivery. They knock you out with the first pain and they wake you up when the hairdresser shows... Sony's car game Gran Turismo real tables like those lining the back walls of actual arcades.'

SOLUTION TO JUMBO 163

A large crossword puzzle grid with the solution filled in. The words include: ALLQUIETON, THEWESTERN, FRONT, RANLCH, XARA, RAITAM, CONTINENT, ENPASSANT, RETINUE, HDTC, COOL, TNIS, SOKT, BRAVEST, PILLAGERS, OCTAMETER, IGR, ROD, IRINA, AARO, SIEGFRIED, CONCENTRATION, CAMP, HNIC, UGL, DEPO, OUTOFTEMPER, EGGHELL, MUSIL, PTE, OIY, AYB, PI, RAWDEAL, SHORELEAVE, MANIFEST, IEE, ESSA, EWRRRA, CABINETMINISTER, OVERTHEMOON, SRD, TRL, NTO, D, CRIMINOLOGY, ALIVEANDKICKING, HTN, WNS, INOU, ANE, UNENVIED, CHANGEOVER, DELIGHT, RELGO, SESE, IT, COMBS, COMPILES, REESTABLISH, HIT, ADO, T, EAN, WILLIAMWORDSWORTH, STRONGARM, ALGBWE, COE, EM, ME, RUINATION, ASHMOLEAN, IMPIOUS, DPT, TH, DUM, EN, HR, EMERITI, INSERTING, CHIPOL, NDV, OLE, CE, H, INT, E, ETERNALFATHERSTRONGT.

WINNING MOVE

by Raymond Keene

Chess puzzle solution: 'It looks as if Black is in trouble: 1... gxf6 allows 2 Qxf6 mate, while 1... Rd1+ and 1... Qc1+ are met comfortably by 2 Rf1 when White has an extra piece. How did Black solve these problems? The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. Answers on a postcard please addressed to: Winning Move competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The answer will be published next Saturday. Solution to last week's competition: 1... Qg2. The winner is: R.F. Tindall of Great Shelford, Cambridge.'

NEW SOFTWARE

Advertisement for Gran Turismo software. Includes text: 'AT THE beginning of the year, Sony announced that it would be releasing "the year's most eagerly awaited title" - Gran Turismo. "The biggest, most realistic and detailed car racing simulation ever seen on [the] PlayStation," gloats the Japanese corporation in press handouts. As Mandy Rice-Davies might say: "They would, wouldn't they?" The problem with building up games in this fashion is when they turn out to be duds. In early promotional video footage of Gran Turismo, the racing cars and a superb photo-realistic sheen and if the game action matched it, this would certainly be an exceptional title. Instead, it does not match such expectations and, certainly in two-player mode, the words squid and damp are what race into my mind. There are plenty of choices in Gran Turismo, with more than 200 different models of car to race over 11 or so tracks and ten different championships. But on the track the action, handling and involvement are all sloppy. Do the blindfold test with Gran Turismo up against Need for Speed II or III (see Games column passim), and it fails every time. Any street cred the game might attain should be put down to the soundtrack which contains songs by Manic Street Preachers, Ash, Feeder and, appropriately enough, Garbage. Verdict: 6 out of 10. One or two players racing game with a slow pace. £44.99. A DECENT pinball game has eluded the PC until now. Of the countless attempts at the genre, few convincingly recreated the action of

Advertisement for game software. Includes text: 'GAME secrets and cheat codes from 29 PlayStation favourites are served up in Prima's Unauthorized Game Secrets Volume 5 (£9.99). Games featured in the briefing pages include Tomb Raider II, Resident Evil 2, Nightmare Creatures and Crash Bandicoot 2. Here are some of the best cheat codes offered: to call up the cheat menu during Dark Forces, press left, O, X, right, O, X, down, O and X. To give yourself unlimited lives in Frogger, pause then press square, triangle, square, triangle and X. For infinite Gil in Final Fantasy VII, type 80094260fff. Last, if you want Parappa the Rapper to always rap cool, enter 801c368e0000. Answers from page 40 Receipts, spinach, ingenue, forte, expense, Centaur, date. The winner of five Oxford University Press reference books, worth more than £100, is

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

Q I once had the misfortune to attend a performance at Covent Garden which was ruined for me and my companion by the fact that the couple who sat next to us, from the Indian sub-continent, reeked of garlic. The odour oozed out of just about every pore and overwhelmed anyone in about a 12 ft radius of their seats. Being allergic to the stuff as well as finding the odour offensive, I complained to the opera house staff who were more concerned with my not making a fuss than doing anything to help the discomfort of the patrons (not just myself) who had to sit for nearly three hours in that awful aroma. We left at the interval, our evening ruined by their inconsideration. How does one handle a situation such as that? How should the staff have handled my complaint? David Morgan, Guildford, Surrey

A Formal events? How acceptable is a tartan cape or scarf? — Name and address withheld.

A Technically anybody can wear any tartan they choose, but, as we all know, such a cavalier attitude to convention is likely to cause a crisis of a particularly Caledonian kind. Established codes suggest that if you do not have a Scottish father you are allowed to wear your mother's tartan. Otherwise the father's side is always followed. Your grandmother was correct when she suggested that it used to be inappropriate for women to wear a kilt, but there are today plenty of styles designed especially for women. At a formal occasion a silk tartan sash should be worn with your evening dress, over the left shoulder, unless you are the eldest daughter of a major family, an army officer's wife, or have some other special status, in which case the sash would be worn over the right shoulder. How tartan is displayed in everyday dress is entirely down to personal style, although a cape could look rather theatrical.

A Olfactory offences at the opera like body odour and bad breath are much more difficult to police than aural ones, such as whispering, programme rustling and humming along with the big tune, which require only a sharp sssh to silence the culprits. In your situation there is little to do other than suffer in silence. To say anything to the couple would have gravely offended them and would have been extremely bad manners. Furthermore, as the people concerned had bought their tickets it would have been unfair to force them to move. This being said, the opera house could have been more understanding of your plight and ought to have offered to seat you in a less stinky part of the auditorium.

Q During the period of major activity in the equality of the sexes there was a tendency to demasculinise words that carried such a connotation as chairman. I believe that chairperson is being increasingly discarded and in the US the preferred option is chair, while in the UK chairman is making a revival as a neutral gender word. — Albert P Mamo, Madiena, Malta

A I am pleased to see the demise of chairperson which has a deadly ring of political correctness. I'm not keen on chair. The best choice is chairman which, like manhole, does not require feminising. However, those who enjoy gallant gestures might like to use the elegant epithet Madam Chairman.

Q We are preparing for a family wedding. Should we send invitations to elderly family members (in their eighties or nineties) even though we know that they will be unable to attend through physical weakness? My husband feels that it would be hurtful to them not to be included. I, however, fear that this could seem like we are asking for a present. — Louisa, Leicester

A They must be included: age may wither the body but it does not loosen family ties, and your aged relations will want to be with you in mind if not body on the day. Convention only requires that those who attend need to bring an offering to the bride and groom.

Q The author is associate editor of GQ



READERS are invited to suggest what was said when James Major and Emma Noble were together at a party.

This picture will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted. Send your "speech bubble" suggestions — only on postcards, please — with your name and address to: PictureLine, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, May 20.

Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by U.M. Dinning of Hinxton, Safron Walden.



WORD WATCHING

by Philip Howard

CHELA a. A black panther b. A dance c. A disciple

FLECHETTE a. An arrow bomb b. A flesh wound c. A butcher's assistant

FUTTAH a. A djinn b. A ladder c. A board game

GROSGRAIN a. A coarse fabric b. A type of armour c. Corn

Answers on page 39

TWO BRAINS

by Raymond Keene

"THE human brain is an enchanted loom where millions of flashing shuttles weave a dissolving pattern, always a meaningful pattern, though never an abiding one. It is as if the Milky Way entered upon some cosmic dance." — Sir Charles Sherrington.

"It is possible that the capacity of the dolphin brain offers it a potential for memorising maps of ocean geography. The dolphin may see sound. It is an extraordinary fact that some people who are unusually gifted with memory may actually talk of hearing colour and seeing sound." — Professor Michael Crawford.

Question 1 What is the potential number of connections for one brain cell? 10<sup>4</sup>, 10<sup>5</sup>, 10<sup>6</sup>, 10<sup>7</sup>

Question 2 What do we call a brain cell: synapse, axon, dendrite or neuron?

Answers on page 39

CROSS WORDS

by Brian Greer

It is fascinating to dip into crosswords of the 1930s, as sampled in The Penguin Book of The Times 50th Anniversary Crosswords (out of print, alas). The first Times crossword was much in the American mode, with 56 closely interwoven words of average length just over five letters, and mainly definitional clues. By 1933, the more open-weave grid style characteristic of today's puzzles had evolved with, typically, 28 or 30 words of average length between seven and eight letters.

Throughout the decade, the degree of crypticity increased, with the introduction of familiar clue types. Anagrams, however, were often explicitly presented, an example from the 1939 puzzle being Set price (anag.) (8). It was also quite common for anagrams and homophones to lack indicators, thus Chaps in green (7), and Being inexperienced, you get mixed up with the engine (7). Further liberties that I would not dare to take these days included clues lacking a definition, such as Fortune unexercised (9). The wit which I hope remains characteristic of our puzzles was already much in evidence, my favourite three examples being: If you hang it it is likely to swell (7), Horseman (7), Fruit fresh daily (4). Crosswords do not exist in a cultural/historical vacuum. Mussolini put in an appearance

in a clue for "induce" in 1937, and Adrian Bell, in his foreword to the book, describes his first recollection as a Times setter as "coming down to breakfast in a hotel and hearing an elderly resident bawling down the telephone to a crony who was obviously deaf: 'It's swastika! I tell you the word is swastika!' It was from my puzzle and my clue. It was the first morning of our honeymoon, and swastika was as yet a utterly innocent word. From today's perspective, it is shocking to see a dangerous feature in Nazi Germany as a 1935 clue for HOOK-NOSE. Clue answers on page 39. The writer is crossword editor of The Times

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

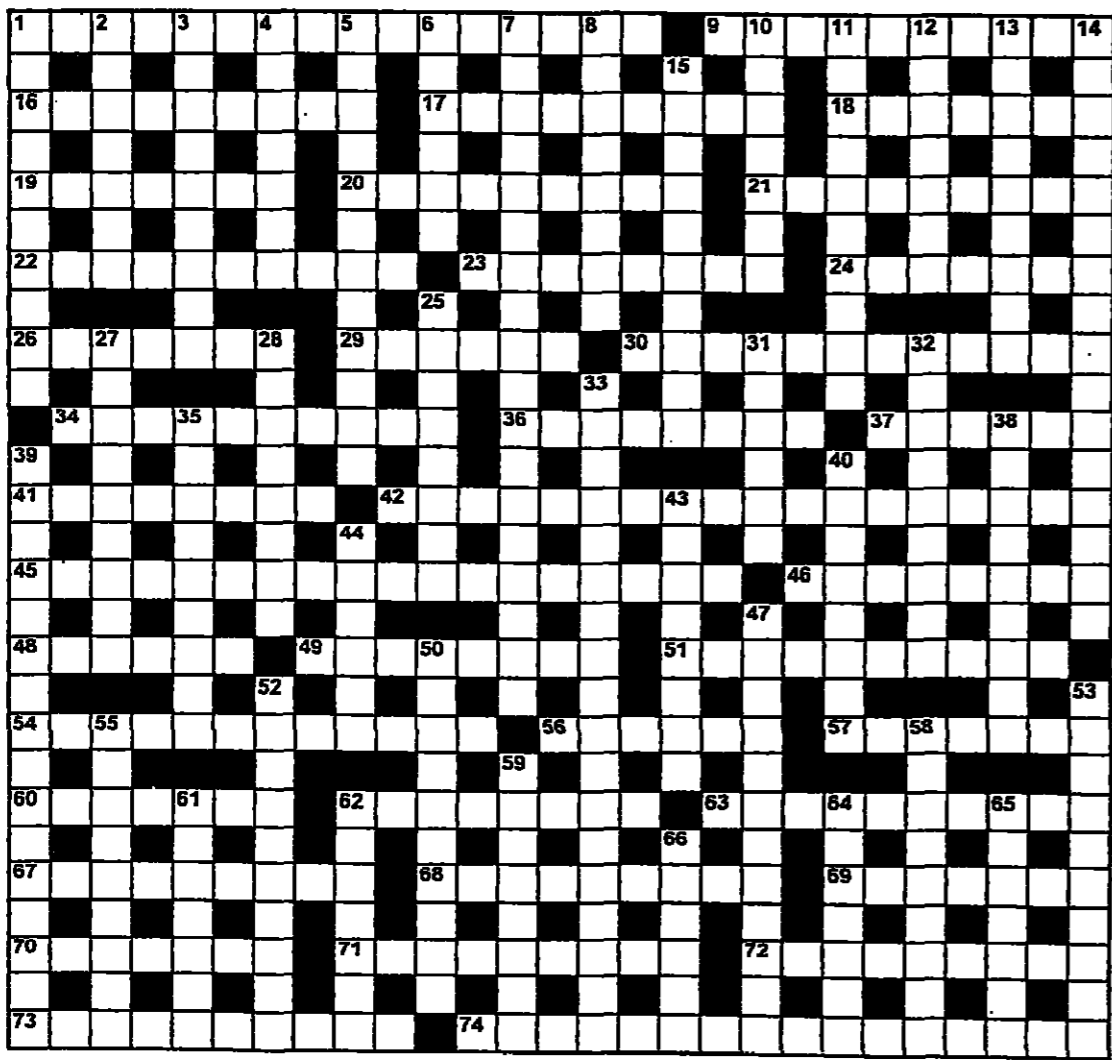
"Peter Penfold is a hero to everyone in this country." — Sierra Leone newspaper the British High Commissioner "Such a shameful event will not take place in Jerusalem." — City's deputy mayor does not welcome the Eurovision Song Contest "A lot of the hoo-ha is overblown." — Tony Blair on the arms-to-Sierra Leone controversy "It's me sitting in this house with £50m in the bank, not you." — Lord Archer replies to journalist who asked whether he had any regrets in life "I could not jeopardise ten years of honesty, decency and hard work." — Former cat burglar Peter Scott pleads guilty to involvement in the theft of a Picasso painting "Paul loved to be spanked and it was a big feature of our relationship. I had to tell him he was a very naughty boy." — Gloria Stewart describes her adulterous relationship with moral campaigner and journalist Paul Johnson "I still believe in family values." — Paul Johnson admits to the 11-year affair "Corrections and clarifications" — The Guardian's "corrections and clarifications" feature, retitled on Tuesday "I'd no idea my knickers could be seen." — Liz Hurley on the revealing dress she wore to a society wedding "With women there is a tremendous desire



to expose themselves. With men the motive is often some kind of obscure revenge." — Auberon Waugh on what motivates people to write novels "It doesn't bother me. The boy won't do it publicly. It's not a problem." — Glenn Hoddle declares his indifference to Gazza Gascoigne's smoking habit "Every week they delay compensation they save money because one of us dies." — Arthur Titherington, spokesman for British PoWs held by the Japanese, deplors the government's failure to seek compensation "Language such as bun and boche is passé. Our readers don't want that anymore and nor do we." — Mirror Editor Piers "Gwen" Morgan apologises after Press Complaints Commission warns papers against xenophobic headlines during World Cup "The resin is flexible, soft, organic, like a part of the body. It is feminine." — Architect Gaetano Pesce describes his proposed memorial to Diana, Princess of Wales, in Paris "I hope they get lots of column inches." — Onlooker as Greenpeace campaigners climbed Nelson's Column to publicise a protest against logging in Canada "Cook's in the kitchen waiting for the order." — Senior official describes the readiness of nuclear armaments scientists in Pakistan and India

JUMBO CROSSWORD 166

The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be a collection of five Oxford University Press titles, the world's most trusted reference books, valued at more than £100. Included are The Oxford English Reference Dictionary and The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Quotations. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 166, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by Thursday, May 28. The name of the winner will be published in Weekend on May 31



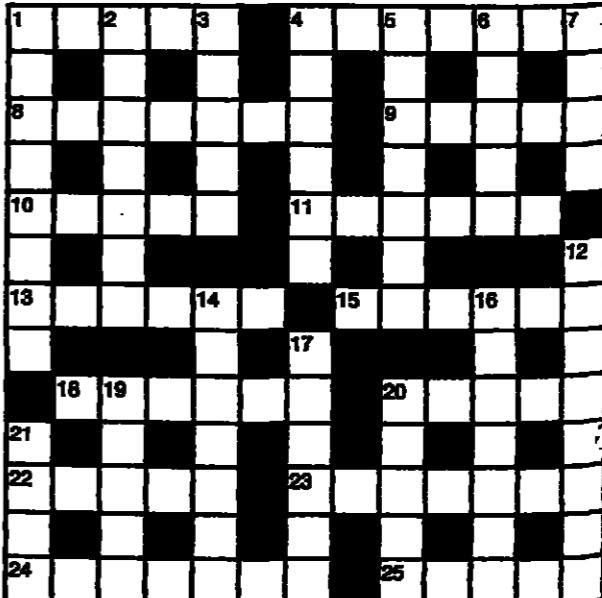
ACROSS

- 1 Lovers going to the wall in play within a play (7,3,6)
9 Dam stream to build Scottish town (10)
16 Sudden seizure of power from the French (4,5)
17 Mind Rodin's statue, for example (9)
18 Scheming to forsake wife for fishing (7)
19 Notes about capital ship (7)
20 To win only one honest jockey is needed (2,3,4)
21 Check on the enemy's deadline (4,5)
22 Do what Mrs Sprat did, and grumble (4,3,3)
23 Resolution may be in Latin if unknown (8)
24 Way furry creature goes backwards more quickly (7)
26 Gain by will to succeed (7)
29 Large corporation insinuating article into magazine (6)
30 Tinker spears rubbish (12)
34 Start to read riot act as revolutionary noble appears (10)
36 Mutton-head's collation? (4,4)
37 Appropriate goods in transit with greeting card (6)
41 A navy in action getting decoration (8)
42 The political spectrum found everywhere (4,5,3,6)
45 Last-minute application for fire insurance? (8,10)
46 Deliver free (8)
48 Fruit often bitten more than once (6)
49 Individual in dire sect being crushed (8)
51 English university record is a credit, speaking of praise (10)
54 Racing at Eton, for example (5-2-5)
56 Arachnid having a rest under the table (6)
57 Girls put cover over joint (7)
60 Snake advert round the top of the shaft (3,4)
62 Food from a micro with an odd recipe (8)
63 Animals that suffer this may have an angry expression (3,7)
67 A descendant of Jacob to some, as Disraeli testified (9)
68 Can one make anything of such a blank card? Yes! (9)
69 Great bal — due with "not out" (7)
70 Work done by Piers up to maturity (7)
71 Soldiers having natural sport with this hairy creature (9)
72 Thinking the same about a particular belief (2,3,4)
73 Old sport putting off a new listener (4,6)
74 Deadly sin from outer space? (5-4,7)

DOWN

- 1 Shores of the sea in the Ancient Mariner's poem out East (7,3)
2 Comedian's act not original (7)
3 Threat implied by this Carroll character (3,6)
4 Lush present producing triumphant expression (2,5)
5 People on mountain find place of shelter in protected area (8,4)
6 Cheats making quids (6)
7 MCC in Test are in such trouble, things being what they are (2,3,13)
8 Hatter's Castle? (8)
10 To last longer on strike needs support (7)
11 Mend seam with thread for Arnold, say (10)
12 Dependable soldier (7)
13 Puzzling, like a cipher (9)
14 Frivolous Mrs Danvers, for example, a regular flasher (10,6)
15 It is salutary if lie can be shown as false (10)
25 Prepare at short notice to put rules in order (6,2)
27 Husband found appropriate watering-place (9)
28 Beaten by Democrat after fresh recount (8)
31 Stars in the German soap operas? (6)
32 Times leader on recititude said to show pedestrian quality (9)
33 London splashing out on the Dome? (7,11)
35 Establishment that can give youth the pip (9)
38 Start of play about Egypt with a line about taking risks (9)
39 Constable, say, arrives having caught chimp with rope (9,7)
40 Holding water in which a pudding is cooked (6,2)
43 Exchange dacha in east for estate in Spain (8)
44 Duke's hapless orison (to Olivia)? (6)
47 Pay lip service to this if you want the gift of the gab (7,5)
50 It can amazingly picture an ice-cream melting (4-9)
52 Dove's deal with Napoleon on accepting Elba originally (10)
53 Robin Hood, for example, listening to outlawed songs (10)
55 Among other things, detached retina's given rise to trouble (5,4)
58 Earl Marshal's staff indicating his office (9)
59 One confined to his room — Little Dorrit's father, for example (8)
61 Tasteful jewel — e.g. antique piece (7)
62 A timer's adjustable for teachers of music (7)
64 Browning's place? (3,4)
65 Member of this school certainly had his colours (7)
66 Secret fear can easily betray (6)

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1407

ACROSS

- 1 Trojan War poem (5)
4 Prudent (7)
8 Picture text (7)
9 A base to Hummox (5)
10 Excavated waste: mar (5)
11 Statue base (6)
13 Tales from its Woods (Strauss) (6)
15 Minority slum (6)
18 Restraining garment (6)
20 Desires, wishes (5)
22 Yellow resin (5)
23 Kettle drums (7)
24 Washington DC river (7)
25 Nursery poem (5)

DOWN

- 1 Trenchant (8)
2 Collapse inwards (7)
3 Borer: methodical instruction (5)
4 Party savoury (6)
5 Disreputably appealing (7)
6 Wilfully break (rule, convention) (5)
7 Loiter furtively (4)
12 Plot together (8)
14 Quack remedy (7)
16 Hedge, tree shaping (7)
17 Interference: unmoving (6)
19 Path of planet (5)
20 Type of pigeon: i ac author (5)
21 Slightly wet (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1406
ACROSS: 1 Repute 7 Virtue 8 Wardrobe 10 Anxious 11 Rustler 12 Fey 14 Exile 15 Steer 19 Ariadne 20 Matured 22 Peculiar 23 Virtue 24 Meagre
DOWN: 1 Reward 2 Parasite 3 Thriller 4 Even 5 Praise 6 Flaubert 9 Barricade 12 Pedicure 13 Trudging 16 Tragic 17 Equity 18 Decree 21 Epée

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